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Univ. declines to support wind energy bill

By JUSTIN LI
News & Features Editor

Executive Assistant to the President Jerome Schnyderman, on President Ronald Daniels' behalf, declined to take a position on a recent offshore wind energy bill being discussed in the Maryland General Assembly.

Schnyderman made this decision at a meeting with members of the Students for Environmental Action (SEA) and the Maryland Student Climate Coalition (MSCC) last Friday morning.

Schnyderman cited the lack of consensus within the University on the bill, the established relationship between the University and its energy suppliers and the short time scale prior to the bill's vote as reasons that the President's office could not proceed, according to sophomore Julia Bradshaw, Public Relations Officer for SEA.

Reintroduced this year after failing to make it to voting last year, the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012 would allocate state subsidies for the construction of an offshore wind farm 12 miles off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland.

Daniels' neutrality marks a setback for the two groups who had hoped to convince his office to send a letter to Baltimore City Senator Catherine Pugh in support of the legislation.

"If Hopkins came out in public support of it, it would mean a lot," sophomore Thalia Patrinos, member of the MSCC, said. "Hopkins has a lot of weight, especially in lobbying decisions."

Some students remained unsatisfied with the meeting with Schnyderman and questioned whether Daniels was even informed of their petition.

SEE WIND ENERGY, PAGE A5



Wolman evacuated for possible fire

By RACHEL WITKIN
Managing Editor

A student discharged a fire extinguisher on the fifth floor of Wolman Hall at approximately 9:50 p.m. Friday night. Mistaking the fire extinguisher emission for smoke, another student pulled the fire alarm and the building was evacuated.

"The fire extinguisher was discharged by an unknown student. The student that pulled the fire alarm does not face any consequences because they thought there was a true fire," Lt. Mark Long of Investigations said.

Construction on biology facilities continues

By JUSTIN LI and
KATHERINE SIMEON
News & Features Editors

Construction of the Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories and Biology Research Wing, an expansion to the Mudd Hall Biology complex, is well underway.

The building will have energy efficient features, such as two heat wheels and

rain gardens, and house both research and course laboratory facilities. Having started construction in June 2011, the building is slated for occupancy by summer of 2013.

"We're actually slightly ahead of schedule, but we never say that," Travers Nelson, Program Manager of Design and Construction, said. "You

always try to get ahead of schedule because you don't know what's coming down the road. So as far as what we say, we are right on schedule."

Foundations for parts of the building are already in place. With the main structure of the basement, ground floor and first floor completed, Nelson notes

SEE CONSTRUCTION, PAGE A5



The new construction is dovetailing with renovation to Mudd Hall to produce better Biology facilities.

INSIDE

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B6

The construction and maintenance of the wind farm will employ thousands of workers and help spur economic growth in a sputtering economy.

B7



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NEWS & FEATURES

Hopkins establishes New China STEM Program

By ASHLEY EMERY
Staff Writer

Hopkins has launched the China STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Medicine) program to apply the Chinese language to growing academic fields for career purposes in partnership with Nanjing University. Beginning in the summer of 2012, this eight-week long summer program of study will take place in the Hopkins-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies.

The China STEM program will offer undergrads, graduate students, professionals, post-doctoral fellows and researchers courses that seek to bridge the language barriers between Chinese and American scientists and engineers. It will present these students with the language skills necessary to excel in a career in science, technology, engineering or medicine. The program offers a mixture of intensive language training in small classes, research seminars, personal interactions with Chinese scholars and scientists and experiential visits to other institutions such as laboratories, hospitals, and academic institutions in Nanjing and Beijing.

"No other program offers Chinese language for engineering and health sciences--even though general intensive language programs and business Chinese programs have become popular offerings at many institutions," Tyree Powell, the academic program coordinator for Hopkins's East Asian Studies Department, wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

The China STEM program does not align with a specific major, but seeks to appeal to students interested in medical, public health or engineering careers. Scholars and professionals in these technical fields have continuously lacked proficiency in the Chinese language despite the growing necessity for such a capability.

"We imagine a future in which Chinese language will be essentially important to specialists in medicine, public health and engineering--and we look forward to providing language training to students who also share that vision," Powell wrote.

There has been a scarcity in classes for Chinese language training in the United States, despite the influx of classes in "Business Chinese" that have become increasingly prevalent. China is a burgeoning center of scientific and technological advancement; the international nature of sci-



COURTESY OF KRIEGERJHUEDU
The new China STEM Program will take place at the Hopkins-Nanjing University Center this summer.

tific research and scholarship necessitates effective communication with the Chinese.

Hopkins aims to train a new generation of American scientists that possess the advantage of bilingualism as science globalizes, especially with China's growing role. This new generation will gain the possibility of obtaining careers in Asia.

"Running the program from Hopkins-Nanjing Center will capitalize on the Center's reputation within China for cross-cultural training and networking; our overall strength in medicine, engineering, and science; and Nanjing University's outstanding community of scholars and researchers," Powell wrote.

The China STEM pro-

gram was proposed in 2009, and now, three years later, all applicants are welcome to vie for participation in this prestigious and unique program. Hopkins students, students from other universities, and professionals may apply for admission. The program's director is Dr. Ningping Yu.

Specifically, the program is geared for applicants who have three years of college-level training in Mandarin Chinese or the equivalent and who aspire to academic or professional occupations in engineering or the health sciences, such as in public health, nursing and medicine.

"We are looking for students with a passion for science and commitment to language learning. We think that combination will work to their advantage in

today's job market. Living and working in China after college transformed my life--and I think it will be great for my career in the long term," Powell wrote. "[The program] will also open [students'] eyes to a fast changing society and a very different way of thinking about and doing science, medicine, and engineering."

Admitted students arrive in Nanjing, Jiangsu, China, at the end of June 2012. Classes will commence in Nanjing on Monday, June 25 and end on Friday, August 17 in Beijing. In June and July, students live at the recently renovated Hopkins-Nanjing Center on the campus of Nanjing University and transition to the campus of Peking University in Beijing at the end of July.

Design plans finished for Malone Hall

By IAN YU
Managing Editor

In an effort to bring together researchers across the university's numerous divisions, Hopkins will begin construction of a new research building, Malone Hall, later this year. The building will adjoin Mason Hall and Hackerman Hall at the southeast corner of Decker Quadrangle.

"We are currently just finishing up the design and development phase," Amy Mercurio, Senior Project Manager at the Office of Facilities Management, said.

According to Mercurio, the anticipated start date for construction is in August, with the building expected to be completed in June 2014.

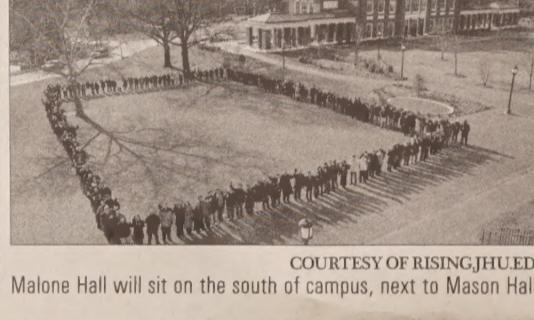
The project is funded in large part by a \$30 million donation from John Malone, Hopkins alum and chairman of Liberty Media Corp. and Liberty Global Inc. Malone's donation is the largest received by the Whiting School of Engineering. The four-story Malone Hall is set to house two major facilities, the Systems Institute and the Homewood base of the

Individualized Health Initiative. Construction of the 56,000-square-foot facility is projected to cost \$37.5 million.

Emphasizing the importance of individual care, the Individualized Health Initiative will bring information sciences into patient treatment, bringing together engineers and researchers to better incorporate genetic and epigenetic information into treatments. The Systems Institute is aimed to have researchers take on problems from a multidisciplinary approach, drawing upon the strengths of researchers at Homewood, the Applied Physics Laboratory and the medical campus.

For the designing phase of the project, Hopkins worked with the SLAM Collaboration, who has begun work on a website to offer information on the project as it progresses. Hopkins has also contracted Whiting-Turner as the construction manager.

Mercurio expects only the outside area designated for Malone Hall and the south entrance to Hackerman Hall will be impacted once construction begins.



COURTESY OF RISINGJHUEDU
Malone Hall will sit on the south of campus, next to Mason Hall.

JHMI Shuttle improves service with more express buses

By DANIELLE STERN
For The News-Letter

The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions (JHMI) shuttle system, a shuttle service offered by the University for transit between the Homewood Campus, Peabody Conservatory and other Hopkins campuses, has now adjusted its services to include more express buses during the evening rush hour. Additionally, the shuttles will now be running on select holidays. These changes have been in effect as of Jan. 30.

More northbound express buses, from JHMI to Homewood, have been added during the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Previously, only three express buses ran within this time frame. Now, the two express buses operate per

hour and an additional one runs at 7:00 p.m.

"[This creates] a more convenient commute," Ankur Ponda, the Transportation Manager in the Hopkins University Office of Facilities Management, explained.

The schedule was also altered so that drivers have more time to make it back to either the Interfaith Center or the medical campus in order to have a timely departure. Some shuttle times have been pushed back or bumped up slightly to satisfy this condition.

In an effort to improve the shuttle system, Ponda studied the ridership patterns of the shuttle system throughout the year. The JHMI shuttle will now operate on a Saturday schedule on the day after Thanksgiving, as well as on Christmas

Eve and New Year's Eve.

These changes to the JHMI shuttle system marks Ponda's first project since having joined the University three months ago. In

an effort to be more efficient with Hopkins resources,

Ponda instituted a number of changes which added to the overall functioning of the trans-

portation network.

However, some students, such as junior Melanie Gersten, think these changes do not directly affect most under-

graduates. "It's not really relevant to me. I only use the shuttle to get to Penn Station and I have never experienced a big problem," Gersten said.

"However, it is nice that the

University is providing improved service for those who need it."

Nevertheless, some under-

graduates often commute to and from different Hopkins campuses for volun-

teering, re-

search, and music lessons.

These students have ex-

pressed the need for addi-

tional express buses.

"A lot of the time people

can't fit on the buses, even with standing," junior Jaron Tepper, who works as a research assistant at the Hopkins Medical Campus, said.

Students have also ex-

pressed concern over how busses affect street safety.

"There have been many times when I've chased down the bus, and considering the bus accident that just happened, I'd say increasing the number of busses and avoiding people running after them would be good," Jessica DeBakey, a junior, said.

For the Homewood-

Mount Washington shuttle, passengers can now request stops along the designated route. How-

ever, this service remains unavailable on the Homew-

ood-Peabody-JHMI Shut-

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NEWS & FEATURES

Unite for Sight offers students clinical experience in a foreign setting

By KATHERINE SIMEON
News & Features Editor

Travelling to different countries is an experience that many dream of. Students love the idea of going abroad, experiencing a new culture, eating new food, learning in an international classroom and sightseeing. The thought of adding a stamp to the passport is an enticing one, whether for a family vacation or an educational experience.

A career in the medical field is a dream that many students, especially at Hopkins, strive for. Passionate students have a gut feeling that becoming a doctor, a nurse or physician's assistant is their calling. They are compelled helping others, caring for patients' well-beings and gaining a sense of understanding for others' needs.

Unite for Sight synthesizes these two goals—exploring a new and foreign setting while getting a taste of clinical work. The non-profit organization aims to fight preventable blindness both in the local and international scene. Unite for

sight establishes and supports eye clinics in developing countries worldwide to give the proper eye care to those in need.

In June 2010, senior Danielle Himelfarb travelled to Accra, Ghana with Unite for Sight as a Global Health Volunteer and was inspired by the environment there. Her days in Ghana giving eye exams, distributing medications and corrective glasses and observing surgeries motivated her decision to bring this opportunity to Hopkins students. Upon arriving on campus the following fall, she established a chapter of Unite for Sight's at Hopkins.

"It is a great introduction to the organization for anyone interested in the global health programs," Himelfarb wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

The Hopkins chapter of

Unite for Sight's values and send students abroad to help at the numerous eye clinics in remote and developing villages around the world.

Currently, the Hopkins chapter has five members and welcomes new people year round. Any student, regardless of major, class year or pre-professional interests, can join and attend the organization's weekly meetings.

So far, the Unite for Sight chapter has hosted a few bake sales to fund trips and eye care abroad. Obtaining funding for eye care, clinics and travel is crucial for Unite for Sight and especially so for the Hopkins chapter.

"The purpose of the JHU chapter is to fundraise to provide sight-restoring eye care in developing countries," Himelfarb wrote.

"100 percent of the funds raised provide sight-restoring surgeries for patients living in extreme poverty."

To raise funds here at Hopkins to support their efforts in Ghana is something I feel very strongly about and I hope that the JHU chapter will continue to do so for a while."

As a new semester begins, the Hopkins chapter of Unite for Sight wants to do more than just earn money. They want to increase their presence on campus and their interactions with the student body by spreading awareness about their cause.

"The chapter also strives to hold global health events and activities throughout the semester. Besides our on-campus fundraising activities, we hope to hold more global health activities this year. We hope to bring one of the Ghanaian ophthalmologists to

campus to speak about his experiences," Himelfarb wrote.

However, the main priority of the organization is to fundraise and ultimately send students abroad for a unique clinical and global health experience. The Hopkins chapter links its members to Unite for Sight's numerous programs. These programs include travel to Ghana, the Honduras and three different regions of India.

"In the past two years we have had three students travel to Ghana (myself included) and one travel to India," Himelfarb wrote.

"While on these trips, volunteers do visual acuity exams, distribute medications and eyeglasses and observe sight-restoring surgeries. The trips are very challenging because these outreaches to remote villages last 12 hours and sometimes more. Each day is exhausting, but the reward of helping someone gain sight greatly outweighs it."

The broad programs consists 100 percent of volunteers inspired to serve others. Although participants do not get paid, volunteers can receive academic credit for their work. This credit can apply to students' undergraduate records as well as be transferred to continuing education programs, as many medical and graduate schools grant academic credit for work with Unite for Sight. Nearly 42 medical schools accept volunteering with Unite for Sight as credit towards completion of a program. Eight public health graduate schools also grant credit for participation with Unite for Sight, including the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Hopkins.

Volunteers can also apply to be Global Impact Fellows and conduct research projects that investigate questions on implementing global health care.

Students come up with their own research proposals and work with mentors both from their university and Unite for Sight.

All research projects are reviewed by the Institutional Review Board (IRB). Past research projects from university students all over the nation have been published in peer-reviewed journals and have also doubled to

fulfill thesis requirements.

In addition to these resume-strengthening components, students will also get to collaborate intensively with a new community and gain authentic hands on experience.

"The experience of living in Accra and working with an outstanding team of doctors, nurses and assistants every day was amazing and, by far, my favorite part of this organization," Himelfarb wrote.

Although the Hopkins chapter of Unite for Sight is quite small, it contributes to a huge effort that affects communities and visions across the globe. As the group is always open to new members, its presence at Homewood and in Unite for Sight can only grow.

"With more members we will be able to organize some very informational global health activities," Himelfarb wrote.



COURTESY OF DANIELLE HIMELFARB
Volunteers also had the opportunity to observe sight-restoring surgeries.



COURTESY OF DANIELLE HIMELFARB

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DEADLINE: March 9, 2012

Woodrow Wilson Fellow explores the old and new tales of King Arthur

By GAURI WAGLE
Staff Writer

Hopkins has always been known as a prestigious university, producing polished empirical papers that are respected by fellow scientists and abundant research opportunities for its students. Walking onto campus for the first time, the idea of conducting research may be unthinkable. Who would consider the research of an inexperienced freshman?

Senior Amy Conwell wondered this during her freshman year. Then, upon her arrival at Homewood, she learned more about the Woodrow Wilson Research Fellowship, which connects freshmen to their own independent research by awarding selected students \$10,000 to pursue projects of their choice.

Conwell heard about the grant after her acceptance into Hopkins, but thought research, especially with so much flexibility was only for upperclassmen.

Many of her friends expressed interest in applying or already had been accepted. Conwell's curiosity piqued, especially after hearing the mentoring and support offered by the grant. Nevertheless, she was still uncertain about applying to the program. In the spring, nearly fifty freshman students apply, but only five are successfully accepted.

As Conwell took more classes, she realized she could pursue her own interests via the fellowship. The King Arthur legend, one of Conwell's long time favorites, called out to her. Her poetry class with Professor Andrew Daniels



COURTESY OF AMY CONWELL
Conwell explored the archaeological sites of King Arthur.

allowed her to begin her search about the legend. Outside of the classroom, Daniels referred her to another professor: the renowned historian Gabby Seegal. Seegal helped Conwell formulate a research proposal and soon became Conwell's first mentor. Conwell began her experience as a grant recipient by aiming to research the English people and ethnogenesis reflected in the King Arthur legend.

"I realized the grant was just a fun way to study what I wanted," Conwell,

said. "It gives you room to change your mind and narrow your focus. Not that I won't write a screenplay someday. I will — but just not for March," Conwell said.

Instead, she decided to publish a historical article on her findings.

But Conwell found her true jewel much closer to



COURTESY OF AMY CONWELL
Conwell saw the Glastonbury, England scenery as home of the "Isle of Avalon", the place where King Arthur's sword was forged.

home. While perusing the Free Library of Philadelphia during a visit home, Conwell discovered the manuscript upon which her research is centered — Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* (the History of the Kings of Britain), the first popularized history and earliest narrative of King Arthur.

Based on this development in her research, Conwell began taking courses structured around her fellowship. In the fall, she took Occidental Civilization, Medieval World, Pirates and Parchment and a 14th century poetry class — all of which concentrate on the time period or topic of Conwell's research.

The representative image of research usually involves white lab coats, an assortment of beakers and test tubes and maybe a few mice for testing. The Woodrow Wilson Fellowship counters this picture with a vibrant collage by digging into a variety of interests, from natural sciences to the humanities, in a creative and encouraging manner.

It gave me a really great opportunity to pursue my passion. I would never have imagined that I could make King Arthur my life, but now I might

end up as a professor researching what I enjoy," Conwell said.

Fellows are required to produce a presentation and a ten page paper in the spring of their senior year, though many go above and beyond.

While not all of the research ends up in the final presentation, it all yields some understanding. Conwell did extensive research and reading the summer after her sophomore year, the majority of which she did not incorporate into her article, but all of which directed her more towards her concluding piece.

Conwell sees a strong future for her research.

Not only could she pursue a graduate program researching a similar topic, but she also sees it turning into a novel.

"I might end up staying at Hopkins for another year. This March I can showcase an article and hopefully get it published, but once you start reading, you realize how much there is. I'm thinking about writing a novel but that definitely won't be done by then," Conwell said.

The Woodrow Wilson Grant allows students to explore interests and passions with guidance and mentoring, leading them to unexpected places. Conwell never imagined

to be studying a 12th century manuscript, but her focus narrowed through the course of the program. With the help of qualified mentors and professors, Conwell was able to travel, study, read and establish great connections. The community aspect of the program was of paramount importance to Conwell. She found the people that her mentors and professors introduced her to engaging and stimulating.

"The program is great," Conwell said. "It's made me realize that I really can do anything I want to do. Everyone is just so supportive and flexible. I can do anything."

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Test of emergency alert system: Feb. 14

Homewood Campus Safety and Security will conduct a test of the campus siren/public address system and the Johns Hopkins Emergency Alerts text messaging system at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2012.

The test will be a full-scale simultaneous activation of both systems.

The siren/PA system, which is activated by radio signal from the Homewood Communications Center, is composed of speakers on Garland Hall, Whitehead Hall and the O'Connor Recreation Center.

The sirens will simultaneously sound the alert tone and then sequentially broadcast the voice message, announcing, "This is a test of

the Homewood campus emergency warning system."

Those who have subscribed to the text message alert system will receive a brief message that reads, "This is a test of the Homewood Emergency Alert text message system. There is NO EMERGENCY. Had there been an imminent threat additional information would follow."

Shortly after the public address broadcast, an all-clear alert tone will sound, followed by the message saying, in part, "This has been a test of the Homewood campus emergency warning system. Had there been an actual emergency, you would have been given specific instructions on

what to do."

Because the public address system incorporates a silent self-test feature that will exercise each module on a weekly basis, Campus Safety and Security will schedule "live" tests only three times a year. The main purpose of the exercise is to familiarize the Homewood community with the sound of the system.

Except for these periodic tests, the system will be used only in the event of an incident or situation that presents a significant threat to the lives or safety of the campus community.

This announcement was published at the request of Campus Safety and Security.

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The Provost's Undergraduate Research Awards are made possible by the Hodson Trust.

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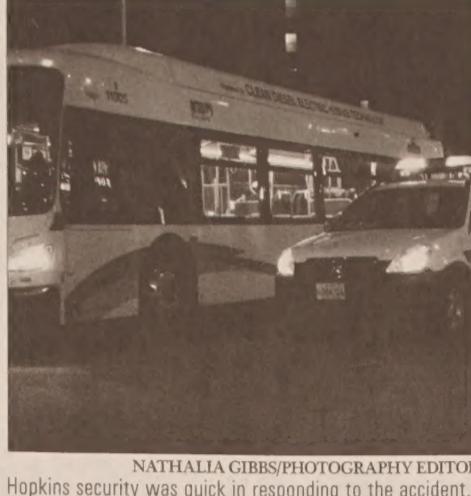
NEWS & FEATURES

Busy intersection sees numerous accidents involving students

ACCIDENTS, FROM A1

Paul and heading northbound to catch the JHMI shuttle downtown, according to Hopkins sophomore Joella Allen, 19, the victim's companion at the time. Reports state that the bus pushed Walsh approximately 15 feet through the intersection and projected her an additional few yards before coming to a halt.

Campus Safety and Security was swift to the scene, arriving within 30 seconds. The bus, carrying rush hour passengers, remained parked in the middle of the thoroughfare Hopkins security was quick in responding to the accident.



NATHALIA GIBBS/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The passengers seemed more definitive in their judgments, but without consensus.

"The bus came through the red light and blew the horn at the car taking a left [through the intersection]," Baltimore resident Delano Bailey said. "I've been a driver for 42 years and I might not be the best, but I'm better than whoever was behind the wheel there."

Reginald Hairston, another Baltimorean on the bus, offered another perspective: Walsh, he ventured, was reckless.

"She started running out in front of the bus, and the bus slammed on the brakes, but it was too late," he said.

"My God," he added, "it was loud."

Meanwhile, the bus driver—who declined to give his name—sat on the interior steps of his vehicle, looking flustered.

Ten feet from him, the paved median between Subway and Bradford Apartments was empty but for conversing officers and

a worried-looking young woman—Allen, who, in the days after the accident, has clung to her friend's proverbial bedside, simultaneously using her Facebook page to brief the community on Walsh's status.

To do the same, Walsh's parents have created a tribute page on CaringBridge, a website with a blog capacity utilized by those in ill health (or, more often than not, their caretakers) to provide updates on their health collision.

In the days since the accident, the page reports, Walsh's condition has progressed from serious but stable—the collision left her with shattered ribs, a punctured spleen, a broken left fibula, and most seriously, skull fractures—to one of "great strides," as the most recent journal entry on her CaringBridge page states. Her injuries are not life-threatening.

"She is definitely improving, but she has a long way to go," the journal, updated by her brother Ben Walsh shortly after midnight on Wednesday, reads, citing a decrease in brain swelling and improved cognitive function but also shallow breathing and a perhaps damaged diaphragm.

Little is known, meanwhile, about Tuesday night's incident involving two Hop-

kins students, other than what was provided in Campus Safety and Security's Daily Incident Report on Wednesday.

"A southbound vehicle driven by a non-affiliated motorist making a right turn from St. Paul St. onto 33rd St. struck two sophomores walking southbound in the crosswalk just west of St. Paul St," it reads. "Baltimore Police, campus officers, off-duty Baltimore Police officers working for JHU and an ambulance responded. The students reported leg and hip soreness but they declined to be taken to the hospital."

The Walsh incident,

meanwhile, failed to appear in any campus security bulletin, which Executive Director Edmund G. Skrodzki dismissed as an "unfortunate clerical error" and not a consequence of Walsh's lack of affiliation to Hopkins.

"It should have been in the Daily Incident Report similar to the one we reported yesterday. It doesn't matter if [the victim] is an affiliate or a non-affiliate," Skrodzki wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

He could not comment further, since neither incident falls into the jurisdiction of Campus Safety and Security.

City authorities, how-

ever, are working to make sense of the collisions that wounded three college undergraduate students a block from Homewood over the course of six days.

"All of our information is still preliminary," Baltimore Police Department Detective Jeremy Silbert said. "It might be another few weeks we complete our investigations, and we will wait until it's complete before we make any decisions."

By "decisions," Silbert refers to the deliberations between law enforcement agencies and the State's Attorney office, which will resolve both who to blame and how to penalize.

Muslim culture highlighted at mosaic

MOSAIC, FROM A1

part of the week in Senegal, because everyone floods the streets and prays, it is really special, moving and peaceful," Myriam Kane, a sophomore student representing Senegal, said. Kane explained that Senegal is mostly Muslim but it is not a Muslim country; Christians and Muslims cohabit without any animosity. Spiritual peacefulness characterizes Islam in Senegal. One city in particular, the Holy city of Touba, a place where politics, police and alcohol are forbidden, demonstrates this tranquility. The city poses an interesting social experiment and evidently crime is minimal in Touba.

Another student described the ninety-nine attributes of God, such as

"God is the merciful" or "God is the wise" and how it is important to model one's life after these attributes. "No matter your faith, you can take something from Islam and add to your own faith" Ismail ibn Ali, a first year graduate student at the School of Education representing Trinidad and Tobago, said.

For example, the specific and personal nature of prayer emphasized in Islam can be incorporated into one's own faith, or modeling one's life after specific attributes, rather than a generic or vague idea can be applied to anyone's daily life. Islam is not confined to the Middle East, nor is it confined to Muslims themselves sharing aspects of other faiths: "It's hard to break stereotypes that Islam is a boxed thing...it's not so compartmentalized,

but rather a continuation of faith throughout time" ibn Ali said.

Islam stretches across other continents as well. There is a strong presence of Muslims in Japan due to the Japanese invasions of South East Asia and China during WWII. It is the official religion of Morocco. In China, the highest concentration of Muslims is found in the Xingjian province. Ethiopia is 33 percent Muslim, and is home to the site of the oldest sultanate in the world. Pakistan split from India in 1947 in order to create a separate Islamic nation and gain political representation for Muslims. America is home to 1.8 million Muslims. Together, these countries weave a colorful and diverse tapestry and the thread that holds them together is their faith, Islam.

Students petition Univ. for offshore wind energy

WIND ENERGY, FROM A1

"We didn't speak with President Daniels. We spoke with one of the people that writes letters for him," Patrinos said. "I don't even know if President Daniels knows about this bill."

"You have to go through all the bureaucracy and red tape to get to him," Patrinos said. "And we haven't gotten to him yet."

According to Megan Jenny, Campus Organizer of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), opponents of the bill cite the increase in energy bills Maryland residents, businesses, and institutions would face to cover construction costs as an argument against the bill. The clean energy advocacy group hoped to gain the support of Maryland businesses and institutions in favor of the bill as a counterargument.

As of today, the presidents of Chesapeake College and St. Mary's College and a few hundred businesses have come out in support of the bill, according to Jenny.

However, the two groups remained optimistic about the bill's future.

"It's a fantastic bill. It's just really sensible. You don't even need to be an environmentalist to like this bill. You could hate the environment and still like this bill," Patrinos said.

SEA and the Maryland Student Climate Coalition (MSCC) have been petitioning students around the Homewood Campus to raise awareness and support for the bill since the end of fall semester. Bradshaw described the student response as "very positive." So far, the groups have collected 120 signatures and 80 photo petitions.

Students from both groups plan on participating in a rally on Feb. 22 in front of the Maryland State House in support of the

Maryland Off Shore Wind Energy Act. Organized by the MSCC, the rally will draw students from several Maryland universities.

In accordance with the bill, private companies will submit proposals for offshore wind farms to the Maryland Public Service Commission for selection.

The bill also limits the increase to average ratepayer's bill to \$2 a month and non-residential ratepayers, such as universities, to 2.5 percent a month above projected fossil fuel prices.

Proponents of the bill argue that the construction of an offshore wind farm will have a number of positive effects.

"We've identified 1000 businesses in Maryland that would benefit [from the economic activity]," Jenny said.

Proponents also cite reduced pollution, subsequent reductions in public health damages and less volatile future energy costs as potential benefits.

In addition, wind farms have a low energy construction cost to energy production ratio. According to Charles Meneveau, the Louis M. Sardella Professor of Mechanical Engineering, in only a few months, a wind farm will offset all the energy used to construct it, leaving the remainder of its multi-year operational lifetime to produce usable energy.

"This is a win for the environment, a win for the economy, a win for the job market and a win for public health," Jenny said.

The wind energy issue has seen movement on the national level as well.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Tommy P. Beaudreau announced the results of an environmental impact assessment of off shore wind energy in the mid-Atlantic last Thursday.

"[The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management environmental impact assessment] found that there would be no significant environmental and socio-economic impacts from issuing wind energy leases in designated Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) areas of the mid-Atlantic Coast," the US Department of the Interior stated in a press release.

Overall the Department of the Interior seemed to be in support of off shore wind energy.

"Offshore wind holds incredible potential for our country, and we're moving full-steam ahead to accelerate the siting, leasing and construction of new projects," Salazar stated in the same press release.

Undergraduate teaching lab construction ongoing

CONSTRUCTION, FROM A5 that they are about ready to pour the second floor. There will be a third floor and a penthouse above these stories.

Many features of the building are intended to be environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The side of the building facing north will be made entirely of glass, providing a view of the Bufano Sculpture Garden.

"[This] wall will provide a view of the sculpture garden and a lot ... [of] north natural light, which of course is ideal, into the building. [This] will help us reduce lighting loads" Nelson said.

The building will also have two heat wheels to help heat and cool the building. The heat wheel, a disc made from a honeycomb-like material, transfers heat between exhaust and intake air. During the summer months when the intake air will be warmer, it will be cooled by this process and during the winter months, it will be heated.

The building will also be equipped with cooling beams, that will circulate cold water throughout the ceilings in order to regulate the building's temperature. "It's a lot more energy efficient to circulate cold water to get cooling out of water than it is to blow cold air through the building," Nelson said.

Both the heat wheels and cooling beams process is a low cost method of heating and cooling air and represents a significant energy savings. There will also be rain gardens on the north side of

the building that will take rainwater collected from the roof and surroundings of the building and filter it before it becomes storm water discharge, a contributor to water pollution. Therefore, there will not be an increase in storm water due to the new building on campus.

"The environment will be better off for having built the building," Nelson said.

The new wing will have three floors of teaching labs, while the top floor's lab facility will be solely for research purposes. All undergraduate lab sciences will be housed here, with lab facilities being wheelchair accessible.

The existing labs were compliant with requirements when they were built," Nelson said. "But requirements have increased overtime, so it's time to catch up."

Mudd Hall will also get an upgrade as the Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories and Biology Research Wing takes shape. The renovations include replacing the single, centered staircase in the Mudd Hall lobby with two staircases placed to the left and right of the current one. A commons area will also be built atop the main Mudd Hall lecture hall. Enclosed between the buildings of the Mudd Hall Biology complex, the commons will have a glass wall, a coffee bar and a seating area similar to that of the Gilman Atrium. Mudd Hall's lobby renovations are scheduled to occur this summer to avoid causing disruptions during the academic semester.

Students from both groups plan on participating in a rally on Feb. 22 in front of the Maryland State House in support of the

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Sexy Valentine's Cards and Condom-grams with The HOP & PEEPs 11-3, Levering Glass Pavilion

Wednesday 2/15: Hump Day Fun with the PEEPs at Wellness Wednesday, Nolan's 6-8pm

Thursday 2/16: OH MEGAN! Super Sex College Style with the HOP, Hodson 110, 7-9pm

Friday 2/17:

More fun with OH Megan! Get Wet Session (BYOL), Great Hall Levering Hall, 12 - 1:30 pm

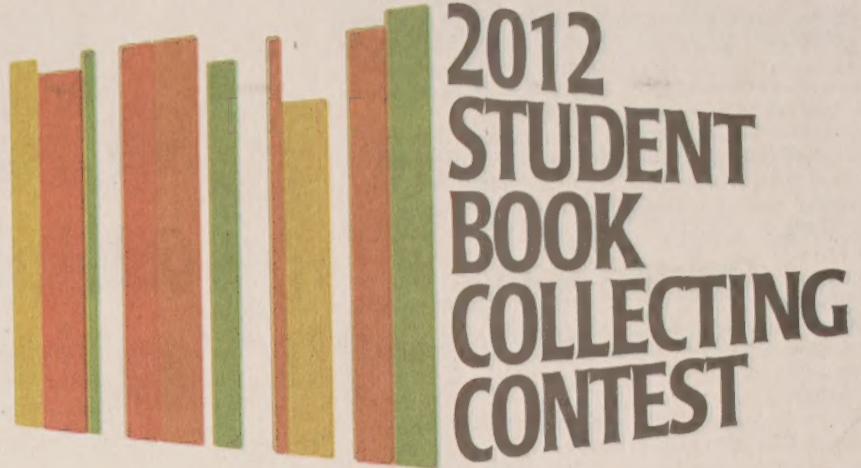
**SEX FEST, 1-4pm,
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For more information go www.facebook.com/chew.jhu

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Learn about what to look for in finding a safe and secure home off-campus.

With Guests: Carrie Bennett (Community Liaison) and
Lt. Bruce Miller (JHU Security).

Wednesday, February 15th
5:00PM - 8:00PM
at Nolan's on 33rd



COLUMNS

Four things I have seen in the Hopkins gym

I love going to the gym. Be it the morning or the evening, there is always something (or someone) to watch while you feel like you're about to die. And the best part is that most of these people are repeat offenders.

1. People who forget about the cubbies.

Okay. Maybe you don't know what I mean when I say "cubbies"; it was a popular term in kindergarten, though may not have progressed past there. But whatever you call them, the little square-shaped vestibules that are in the cardio room are designed to store your things. While it is not advisable to put your iPhone, paycheck and/or laptop inside, you can put your less-valuable belongings inside there you work out.

Instances where I have seen people not do this?

a) the girl who ran around the track (for 40 minutes!) with her keys and lanyard around her neck. I actually thought she was going to choke.

b) the guy who jogged on the treadmill with his backpack right next to him. This was hazardous for those of us who work out and do not possess coordination. I may have tripped on its straps.

2. People who wear regular clothes to the gym.

I am not hating on people who don't own workout clothes. Not everyone is as obsessed with Target's Active section as me. What I am hating on is the people who come to gym in their jeans and proceed to utilize cardio machines.

Perhaps weights would be more acceptable. While I prefer a little stretch in my clothes as I pump iron, you may not. But when you are sweating profusely, are jeans one of the least ideal forms of clothing? Yes. This is because of chafing.

3. Girls who wear nothing (or, like, the opposite of jeans).

You may or may not be familiar with our drop-in fitness classes, but the Rec Center does not offer pole dancing (though, I will be the first to petition for a class). This being said, the gym is not a place to come in your "barely-there." By this, I mean: I do not want to see your ass cheeks.

In middle school, soffees (re: the tiny booty shorts you can roll up on your hips) were cute and fun and said "I'm a cheerleader" or, quite literally, said things like "Luv" on your butt.

But, as we have gotten older, many of us have realized that soffees are not practical athletic shorts. They are tiny, shrink in the Charles Commons washing machines and are completely revealing when you stretch. At the very least, they need to be worn with spandex.

What they don't need to be worn with is a tiny thong. This seems like a reasonable thing to ask. And when you're done working out, can you please wipe down the equipment? I don't want to think about the existence of my own butt sweat let alone yours.

4. The five-minute men.

Ah, this has to be one of my favorites. These gym frequenters can often be found wearing jeans (see number two) and traveling in packs of interested friends.

They will walk into the gym, gather around the water fountain for 5 or ten minutes, and then select a machine on which to begin. But little do we all know, the beginning is only five minutes from their end. Then they will gather their posse and depart. I like to play a game guessing who these people will be.

Tweets on the politics of elections, Super Bowl halftime

The GOP race is constantly changing more than Mitt's stances on social issues. In the latest news, Romney won both Florida and Nevada by substantial margins, but Newt is refusing to back down. With a large chunk of delegates up for grabs, the race is starting to get interesting.



Stephen Colbert @StephenAtHome

Mitt Romney's favorite Star Wars movie is: all six of them are pretty good, which one do you like? That's his favorite too! #preparethem

Retweeted 2293 times

15h

Thankfully, Phil the Groundhog has opposable thumbs, so he was able to tweet all about his excitement on his big day. This just about sums it up.



Punxsutawney Phil @GroundhogPhil

Wonder what aliens would think of humans singing "The Love Shack" at a caged rodent at 5 a.m. in the morning.



Punxsutawney Phil @GroundhogPhil

BREAKING: A terrifying shadow = 6 more weeks of winter! No complaining. We haven't even had winter yet.



Punxsutawney Phil @GroundhogPhil

Shock and horror as the world learns a giant rodent can only predict weather accurately 39% of the time.

14h

14h

1 Feb

We learn something new from Twitter every week.



UberFacts @UberFacts

If you go into Safari on your iPhone and search for "tilt" using the google search bar, the whole results page will literally tilt.

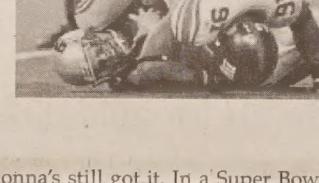
Between SpyGate, punting on the 3rd down against the Broncos and cutting Tiquan Underwood 24 hours before the game, I think the Patriots had this one coming. Congrats to the Giants.



Justin Tuck @JustinTuckNYG91

World Champs Baby. #ALLIN pic.twitter.com/P9rpxmexJ

Hide photo



Ryan Kahn

Tweets of the Week

At 53, Madonna's still got it. In a Super Bowl halftime show that also included LMFAO, Cee Lo, Nicki Minaj, M.I.A., a dance ensemble that looked like the cast of the 300 and gymnasts who looked like they can compete in London 2012, this was easily one of the great Super Bowl concerts of our generation.

But all the talk the next morning was over M.I.A.'s middle finger, which was the first real slip up since the Janet wardrobe malfunction in 2004. Yes, M.I.A. is an idiot for doing it. Yes, M.I.A. was completely out of place for doing it, but it was a great marketing ploy for her upcoming album. Any publicity is good publicity and if you have never heard of M.I.A. before, now you have.



Brandon Willett @bwillettters

So what's worse really - MIA flipping off the camera, or the dancers around her dry humping the sky? #priorities

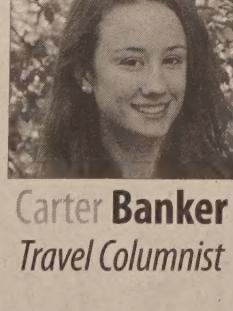
36m

Beijing boutiquing and history lessons a good way to spend travels

Happy 2012 everyone! According to the Mayan calendar, the world is going to end in eight months. If that is the case, you, my dear readers, have a lot of ground to cover in the short time you have left.

It's time for you to explore the world. If you want to get the most bang for your buck, you should probably go to China. Why? Because when you were a kid and you dug holes in your backyard, you thought that one day you would reach China. To us, China has always represented the other side of the world.

And now that the world



Carter Banker

Travel Columnist

is about to end, you might as well go see what all the fuss is about. Besides, if the Mayans are wrong, it wouldn't hurt to pick up a little Chinese — it will be a very useful skill to have when China becomes the new world superpower.

Coincidentally (or not), I just returned from a trip to China. I've only been back in the States for a week, and I can still feel the impression that China left on me... or maybe that's just the jet lag, it's hard to tell.

All jokes aside, I was quite impressed by my experience in China, although I only visited two cities and clearly only scratched the surface; I'm sure that many more trips will be needed in order to better understand the enigma that is The People's Republic of China.

This article is about only one of those cities — Beijing, the capital. I will follow up with an article on Hong Kong in my next column.

I traveled to Beijing to visit my boyfriend who is studying abroad for the year at Peking University taking Chinese classes. My first observation about China that I was able to

make was actually not in China at all, but rather in Newark airport in New Jersey. The hundreds of people attempting to board the 13 and a half hour flight to Beijing were, not surprisingly, overwhelmingly Chinese.

This however, was not a normal boarding experience. Instead of waiting at their seats or in an orderly line for their row number to be called to board, all of the Chinese passengers flocked to the entrance of the flight.



The tiny Beijing boutiques were filled with various animal-themed items — popular Chinese fashion accessories.

a language so completely foreign to me, and when the waitress responded back, I was even more impressed (as was she) that he could actually carry on a conversation. The waitress quickly figured out that my boyfriend was skilled with all things Chinese, including chopsticks. She took mine away and brought me a fork. How embarrassing.

The next stop was the Summer Palace, whose name seemed very ironic with the snow falling around me. The site was breathtaking. Imagine a compound made up of many traditional Chinese buildings with beautiful colors, overlooking a lake.

On my second day in Beijing, I visited Tianan-

men Square, the site of the 1989 protest where hundreds of people were killed. The Chinese government, and many of its citizens, flatly deny that these killings took place. My boyfriend told me that he had asked some of his Chinese teachers about it. One of them said that they had a cousin who was killed, while another said that she didn't know what he was talking about.

Right next to Tiananmen Square is the Forbidden City where the emperor used to live. To be frank, I found the summer palace to be much more interesting.

We spent the afternoon walking around the charming old neighborhood where we were stay-

ing. Away from all the skyscrapers, this neighborhood was filled with pedestrians and cute little shops. The Chinese love these cute little shops filled with animal hats, animal gloves, animal masks and animal bags, all of which are very "in" right now in Beijing. I did a little shopping in an attempt to fit in.

If you are interested in studying in Beijing, Hopkins vets multiple programs including Associated Colleges in China, CET and CIEE. You should also check out the China STEM program, a new summer program that includes science, technology, engineering, medicine and Chinese language. And hurry — in case the Mayans are right!

COLUMNS

Working out is for you, not Spring Break

Strong is when you've run out of weak. Pleasure is when you've had enough pain. Success is when you've had enough failure.

If this is your first time reading the column, I don't care if you think you're fat, skinny, fit or already perfect, if you don't want to improve yourself, if you aren't willing to work hard to see gains, if you are looking for some easy advice, then this is not the place for you.

We all have our own standards, goals and benchmarks to meet, and

if you want to improve yourself, regardless of the level that you're on, then it is always hard to do. This column can either be your weekly casual read or your weekly guide to building a better and healthier lifestyle. The choice is yours.

It's no question that being in good shape puts a smile on your face, but it won't last if you can't put a smile in your mind.

What does this mean? Think about how many people try to desperately lose belly fat the week before spring break by going all out at the gym and

often starving themselves. The enthusiasm is great and the hard effort even better, but the undeniable fact is that most health gains we make during a short amount of time only lasts for a corresponding short amount of time.

Putting yourself through

a week of shock-exercise can induce it to change but to keep that change, you need to keep up the shock. To understand this phenomenon, consider curbing your daily appetite by eating a few pieces of fruit and yogurt for basic energy and drinking large amounts of water to keep your stomach feeling full.

Sure, you'll feel good about the progress, and you might even convince yourself that you feel the fat burning away, but at the end of the day, you are starving, drained, and want nothing else but a huge meal to put you to sleep.

More often than not, we give into eating a handful of random snacks after all those painful hours. The result: your brain thinks food will be scarce and anything consumed at night replaces anything you burned through-

out the day. And conversely, albeit through a much more laborious process, tiny improvements in fitness achieved through months-on-end will be life-changing. It's much like studying for a test the week before as opposed to the night before. You'll be okay for the test

after an all-nighter, but a week later you won't remember a thing. Lesson learned: nothing comes easily.

As important as hard

work is, it's absolutely critical to have a higher something to keep you going. If you're working out to impress someone, to fit someone else's expectations, or trying to fit in for others' acceptance, let me be the first to tell you it won't be worth it. Motivation for bettering your health rooted in something or someone else won't last because it's dependent on that other entity existing. If you can't find a true passion in exercise, at least try to find aspects that satisfy you for your own sake. If you don't have a self-driven motive, it gets so hard on a personal level that any rational person would give up.

So before we move into workouts, into diet plans, and into any sort of daily routine, if you don't have the drive then you won't be likely to continue beyond a few weeks.

My challenge to you is to sit down for 10 minutes and write all of the reasons why you want to get into the best shape of your life. Think about the intangible things that get you going. It's not just another obligation on your daily schedule; it's not just some thing you have to do as part of your college curriculum because everyone in your dorm is going. It's a lifestyle, a lifestyle that you should begin developing at a young age and keep. It's always hard to start, but I promise you it'll be worth it in the long run.

Have the courage to start and the self-control to continue. Athletes are some of the happiest and most inspiring people in the world for a reason. After years of enduring physical pain and possessing the mental capacity to push through continued suffering, sports stars (although on a more extreme scale) know the long road ahead of them and the value of personal gain that lies at the end of it.

You don't have to make the decision to become a marathon runner, and you don't have to settle on training for the triathlon, but to seize even a fraction of a professional athlete's vigor will push you through the first few months of adapting to a new routine.

Aspire to be better. It doesn't matter if you are completely new, somewhat new or well into it. A continuous exercise plan and end goal can and will help you balance not only your diet and physical beauty but also stress and hormone levels on a physiological level.

If you can start with the right approach and the right attitude, you will lean out your abs, bulk up your shoulders, slender out your legs or whatever else you want to balance out your appearance. But you, not anyone else, have to convince yourself that you're willing to put in the work for it, that your willpower is stronger than your desire to quit and that your gains tomorrow outweigh anything today.

Remember, suffer the pain of discipline or suffer the pain of regret.



COURTESY OF GOSSIPCENTER.COM

The final moments of the game created record-breaking fan reaction.

Social media documents record-breaking Super Bowl

Between the game itself, the unique commercials and the Halftime Show, the Super Bowl is arguably the most comprehensive television spectacle of the year. This year's Super Bowl continued the recent trend of setting television rating and viewership records, with 111.3 million people tuning in.

While greater access to televisions is certainly a major factor of this trend, the

presence of a virtual water cooler like Twitter has completely changed the viewing dynamic, creating confidence that such ratings will persist. Aside from the site's impact on television ratings, Twitter

also set personal records during the Super Bowl, including the simultaneous tweeting record of 12,233 tweets posted a second during the final three minutes of the game followed by the 10,245 posted during Madonna's halftime performance.

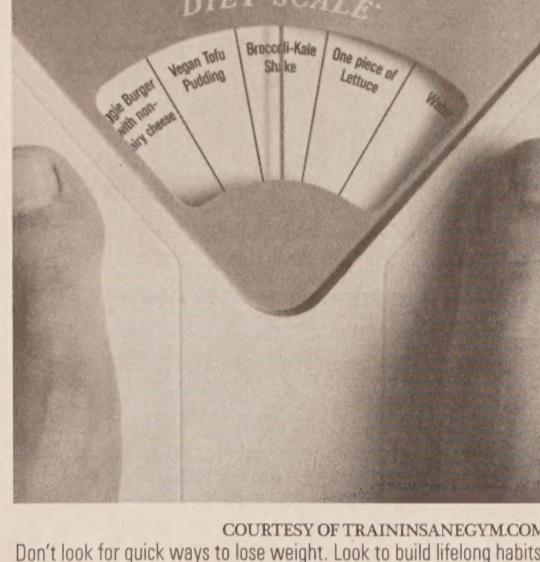
Twitter's influence on television is undeniable, so much so that it would not be a stretch to say that it has forever transformed television from the once passive medium that it was into the interactive social event that it currently is. Twitter anchors a current sweeping movement that has reinvigorated live televised events, such as the Super Bowl, which reigns supreme in the live television department.

The diverse features of the event have always prompted much debate over the game changing plays, the divisive halftime performance, and the collection of novel advertisements that garner as much attention as the game itself. The event accommodates every need and interest, ensuring that everyone has something to say. In providing the unprecedented forum to do so, Twitter reveals this widespread desire to comment. More surprisingly, however, is that Twitter reveals that there is much consistency in the aspects of the game, commercials and the halftime performance that inspire and drive these tweets.

In terms of the game itself, those wishing to share insight had much company, given that the game featured two of the largest market NFL teams in New York and New England. These two teams have had their history of clashes, most recently when New York defeated New England in the Super Bowl of the 2007 season, a game that Tom Brady admitted he wished he could forget.

As expected, the Super Bowl featured a few incredible plays, a controversial halftime performance, and a slew of advertisements that attempted to appeal to a very diverse crowd. Twitter, however, marks the first time that people can publicly react and respond to such consistencies, revealing the many emotions that people have developed for the aspects of the event.

Twitter's success during an event like the Super Bowl further legitimizes its capability and influence. Few if any other events include such diversity and dynamism in every aspect. . just ask the 111.3 million viewers.



COURTESY OF TRAININGANEGYM.COM
Don't look for quick ways to lose weight. Look to build lifelong habits.

Thoughts from Super Bowl Sunday

Furnished by someone who knows nothing (about football)

Questions:

Football players change their names?

Is eye black necessary at night? Does it do anything?

What does "this is all upstairs" mean?

Does the clock ever run. How does time pass?

What else is on the referees' belts?

Why do so many football players have long hair?

What's up with some players wearing white gloves?

Why do the commentators have to be at a desk?

How big is the halftime set?

Comments:

I actually already knew that the yellow line was computer generated.

Some players have mustaches.

Players have signals like pitchers and catchers.

Sometimes it's hard to know what is happening in an instant replay.

Sometimes it's hard to know what is replay and what is real life.

World peace.

Football players really do have unusually thick necks.

Things that exist:

Super bowl rings.

Blimp cameras.

Lily Newman

Guest Sports

Observer

Is diversity a strength?

We think not.

For an alternate view:
www.AmRen.com

If you can start with the right approach and the right attitude, you will lean out your abs, bulk up your shoulders, slender out your legs or whatever else you want to balance out your appearance. But you, not anyone else, have to convince yourself that you're willing to put in the work for it, that your willpower is stronger than your desire to quit and that your gains tomorrow outweigh anything today.

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THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Editorial

Keeping students accident-informed

On Friday evening a University of Baltimore student was hit by an MTA bus. The incident temporarily closed traffic around the intersection at St. Paul and 33rd.

Hillary Walsh, the victim, was taken to the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where she currently remains in the intensive-care unit, although a support website set up by her family indicates that she is recovering.

In the immediate aftermath of the accident, there was a great deal of confusion. Carrie Bennett, the Hopkins Student/Community Liaison, tweeted that the victim was a non-affiliate, but nonetheless students still called each other to see if their friends were safe.

Over the next few days, no bulletin was sent out informing the students of the incident. While this page recognizes that the University may not have the same obligations to non-affiliates as it does to its students, this event nonetheless held significance for the Hopkins community. Students who heard of the

accident but were unaware of the details were concerned for their peers at Hopkins.

Beyond that, Walsh was with her friend, a Hopkins student, at the time of the accident. Friendships and community ties stretch across school lines. A notification from the University would have alleviated some fears, and quelled the potential spread of inaccuracies regarding the situation.

While the accident was not reported in the daily security bulletin because of an error rather than a deliberate decision, the fact remains that students heard little regarding the accident from the University.

This incident is of particular salience because so many similar accidents have deeply impacted the Hopkins community. Verified facts about such incidences have been slow to spread throughout the student body and an official statement from the University would have gone a long way in mitigating concern.

Nathalia Gibbs



LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be e-mailed to chiefs@jhunewsletter.com for inclusion in a Thursday issue. All letters received become property of The News-Letter. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include contact information and cannot be anonymous. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

The implications of Islamic diversity

On February 7, the Johns Hopkins University Muslim Association (JHUMA) hosted its annual Muslim Mosaic, which presents the various regional and cultural diversities of Islam. The event showcased cultural delicacies, clothing and music from around the Muslim world and attempted to expose Hopkins students to the heterogeneity of a little-understood — yet global — religion.

This page emphatically supports JHUMA's efforts and praises Muslim Mosaic for offering a necessary forum for Hopkins students.

With the first anniversary of the Arab Spring fast approaching and the pro-democracy movement still attempting to gain a foothold in Syria, it's become clear just how important the Muslim world really is.

Knowledge of that portion of the world, however, is disappointingly lacking in the United States. Although almost two billion people identify themselves as Muslim, a Pew Research poll released in 2010 shows that 55 percent of Americans "do not know very much" about Islam and 25 percent "know nothing at all." Many in the West seem to view the Islamic nations as distant and uniform, and all too often throw blanket assumptions over them, overgeneralizing their ambitions and desires. But Islam, as

Muslim Mosaic shows, is anything but uniform. It is, rather, an amalgam of varying beliefs and sects, which often affects the western world in unanticipated ways.

The current sectarian conflicts raging in Iraq and Afghanistan, between Sunnis and Shia Islamists as well as among Pashtuns and Tajiks, speak to the diversity of the Muslim world, but also to its relevance to Americans. While we might try to distance ourselves from the conflict and violence in the Middle East, we are inextricably bound to its implications. Whether it be the fate of American aid money, the lives of American troops or the status of international security, America's condition is contingent upon the status of Islam and the Muslim world.

To this end, JHUMA's task is both noble and necessary, especially here at Hopkins, which espouses the concept of the University — of building connections in a world of diversity. To understand the truth of Islam is to break the barriers of parochialism. Confined and defined by merely self-referential and nationalistic knowledge, there is little the University can offer to ambitious and insatiable minds. Enlightened and educated by the spirit of the world, however, there is little it can't provide.

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PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

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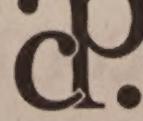
The Gatehouse

(on the corner of N. Charles
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OPINIONS

Russian Spring: Will the revolution catch on?

By STEFAN KAY

In the past year, a shocking number of undemocratic regimes have been met with adamant citizens demanding more freedom. For a while, members of the Kremlin were proud that Russia was an exception. This pride, however, may have gone a little too far. A few months ago, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin announced that he and President Dmitry Medvedev would nonchalantly 'swap' roles, thrusting Putin into a leadership position for potentially the next 12 years.

A few months later, the Kremlin manipulated the national party elections in favor of the leading United Russia party. Immediately after, in early December, Russia was no longer an exception to the growing list of undemocratic regimes met by avid censure. But what will these series of protests manifest into? According to numerous news sources and political pundits (and apparently John McCain), the situation in Russia should prove to expand the borders of the Arab Spring to regimes beyond the Arab world. Although it is really anyone's guess as to what exactly the next few months hold, there are important factors to consider that radically distinguish the Russian movement from the Arab Spring.

The first and most important one is climate. Although people at Hopkins climate may appear drastically inconsequential in determining significant political changes, it will likely prove to be more influential than any one of the major protesting figures of the antigovernment movement.

This past month in Moscow, the temperature has kept between its customary five and negative five degrees Fahrenheit, which is about 30 degrees below a 'cold' January day in Baltimore. This reality makes

marching outside of the government buildings that much more difficult, regardless of people's dedication, seeing as they can only remain outside for so long before they begin to literally suffer from frostbite. In that respect, the type of pressure the immovable Egyptians put on Mubarak by refusing to leave Tahrir Square will not be put on Putin and his entourage, at least not yet.

This distinction is significant for multiple reasons. First, people will presumably have to stay home and postpone acting on their thirst for freedom until the temperature is markedly more conducive to regime change. The excitement will have inarguably declined, which could make for a far less influential movement (although there is a strong possibility that when Putin wins the March election, the movement will be reinvigorated). Second, the inevitable delay of action, if the protests do in fact reignite, will give the Kremlin a luxury

no government that was victim to the Arab spring had: time. The Kremlin now not only expects a resistance movement,

siasm going and the motive in sight. Unfortunately, the people who will likely take on that role preach certain political ideologies that just don't appeal to many. The movement is thereby at risk of becoming associated with a certain ideology (which isn't necessarily undesirable, but obviously not applicable to everyone).

The movement's popularity will be hurt considerably.

The second reason that a resistance in Russia is incongruous to what occurred in the Arab Spring is the political difference between Russian citizens and citizens everywhere else in the world.

Russian citizens have rarely had any sway over who governs them. They have never re-

ally had much political freedom with the exception of the Yeltsin years that were economically unstable and chaotic; Russians seldom remember them fondly.

The citizens have generally prized economic growth and financial stability in their lives over certain social and political rights, and Putin's rule justified withholding the latter by ensuring the former.

As such, the movement could prove to revolutionize politics in Russia and introduce an era that changes much more than merely who is in charge. This distinction is important because it would make this movement as much a social revolution as a political one, as Russians fight for a type of freedom few of them can say they have experienced before.

Although economics did not completely fuel the Arab spring, financial desperation did play a notable part. Most Russians are more financially well-off than ever before, which means that the revolution will remain, in many ways, purely social and political. The movement will therefore be far more disorganized, last longer, and only succeed if it manages to thrust Putin from office.

One certain similarity between the Arab movements and the Russian one is that the people, if resilient enough and truly dedicated, will ultimately prevail. But, right now, it is anyone's guess as to how events over the coming months will unfold. The only suggestion worth making is that looking back at the Arab Spring as a means of determining what will come in the future may prove to be less fruitful than many expect.

Stefan Kay is a freshman International Studies and Economics double major from Rotterdam, The Netherlands



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
Citizens take to the streets in Moscow to protest Prime Minister Putin's presidential ambitions.

Let's build a "good" United Nations

By KAUSHIK RAO

People around the world that live in the midst of oppressive regimes have only a few options when it comes to gaining freedom. Often they organize protests against the government and wait for a response.

The knee jerk reaction of these regimes is to violently suppress protesters, and this violence captures the attention of the world, more specifically the United Nations. Just this past weekend, a U.N. resolution was drafted to

condemn the Syrian

government and to call

for new elec-

tions, but

it came as

no surprise

when Russia and China cooperated in a joint veto

of the resolu-

tion.

Russia and China want to uphold the precedent that a country's government should have the right to brutally crush people who want freedom. Each country has "elections" fast approaching and do not want to be called out for hypocrisy if they decide to shut down protests through force.

And it is clear that Russia and China are working together to protect a regime led by Bashar al-Assad in Syria that is killing thousands of its own people. And due to this veto, the United Nations is now rendered useless in creating an appropriate response to Syria's actions. The free world lashed out against the veto with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and British Prime Minister David Cameron delivering scathing criti-

cisms of the actions taken by Russia and China.

I see the veto by Russia and China as a travesty. It is counterintuitive to the role of the U.N. in world affairs. And it is easy to understand that the U.N. would encounter this type of paralysis from its inception. People with honest intentions have always had an idealistic enthusiasm for the United Nations.

But the United Nations is not organized in a way such that it would be a driving force for good around the world. The reason for this is that just about anybody

is allowed to join this organization. The process for joining the United Nations simply consists of having a government, internationally accepted borders and a sponsored membership

plea. In other words, this is a pretty low bar for admission standards into the United Nations. For example, the North Korean ambassador may come to the U.N. and claim that he is speaking on behalf of the people of his country but is in reality doing no such thing.

The entire structure of the U.N. is far from democratic. Russia and China received Security Council seats while they were totalitarian dictatorships simply because they were powerful and not because they were benevolent, wise or decent.

And there is no part of the U.N. charter that states that a country must be democratic or even care for the welfare of its people. Some might argue that the United Nations is an important place because it allows

for a forum where America can engage the world on important issues. But there are better and more efficient ways for the U.S. to do this, such as NATO and bilateral relations with democracies around the world.

It is becoming clear that we cannot expect noble and ideal actions to be taken in the United Nations. Although there are moments when the United Nations decides to take actions

that are benevolent and help people around the world, these moments only come to fruition when good nations want to see good deeds take place around the world. Forcing these good nations to negotiate with totalitarian regimes has been proven largely ineffective in the United Nations.

We should be giving good—or rather, democratic—nations another place to meet and take action on world affairs. These good nations should form their own international organization because they have shown a commitment towards supporting democratic reforms around the world. This new league of democracies wouldn't replace the United Nations, but it would create competition for the U.N. for effective benevolence.

Furthermore, this new organization of democracies based on similar principles would help to provide a more effective forum in which the international community can aid growing movements throughout the world. This new organization would be comprised of only serious nations who have earned their membership with higher admission standards rather than mere existence.

Kaushik Rao is a freshman Political Science and Economics double major from Yorba Linda, Calif.

Time to see which way the wind is blowing

By THALIA PATRINOS

As a student, my mind is always on the future. We're an ambitious group of youth at Hopkins,

and personally, I don't know a single one of us who isn't excited for the possibilities of what's to come. That's why Governor O'Malley's Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012 is our best opportunity to ensure that there will be more opportunities in the future.

The story begins during the 2011 Maryland General Assembly session, where a broad coalition of environmental, labor, faith, business and other community groups worked hard to pass a bill to construct an offshore wind farm 10 miles off the coast of Ocean City.

The bill was not brought to a vote because the legislators cited a need for an offshore wind study. But since then, multiple studies have been conducted which have guaranteed the public health and economic benefits of the potential offshore wind farm.

The 500 megawatt wind farm that would be built guarantees renewable energy for generations—energy that won't cause unnecessary war and constant bickering over foreign oil.

Wind power also offers energy without the air pollution and particulate hazards of coal-fired power plants. To this end, this wind farm will help cut back on exorbitant health care costs to treat those affected by coal ash and other particulate matter.

Furthermore, wind energy's price doesn't fluctuate due to international crises. Unlike oil prices, which soar and plummet along with positive and negative news in the Middle East, wind energy is fixedly low and strongly competitive. Additionally, over the past ten years, energy costs for Marylanders have nearly doubled, and the price of

fossil fuels will only continue to rise. The wind farm must be built to provide much needed affordable and reliable energy for years to come.

Wind power is also needed to meet the demands of Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires that 20 percent of the state's electricity supply come from renewable sources by 2022. In 2008, Maryland imported 90 percent of the renewable energy required to comply with this policy. And, not surprisingly, half of our state's energy still comes from coal plants. Wind energy will provide a clean alternative that will also be able to meet a high demand in Maryland.

What's more, the construction and maintenance of the wind farm will employ thousands of workers and help spur economic growth in a sputtering economy. To a portion of over 200,000 Marylanders looking for work, this wind farm will provide much needed assistance.

These jobs, in turn, will spur economic growth because money will be placed in the hands of people who need to consume to live. The money will be spent on life's essentials. This wind farm is, in effect, a cash infusion into the economy. And let's keep in mind that these jobs will not be created on the back of the environment, as the Keystone Pipeline would have been.

Creating jobs, reducing pollution, cutting costs and slashing carbon emissions by an average of 945,000 tons per year are clearly nothing to scoff at. This is money well spent and a win-win for everyone.

We need to spread the word about the Offshore Wind Energy Act. This is an opportunity we cannot afford to pass up.

Thalia Patrinos is a sophomore English and GECS double major from Rockville, Md.

PHOTO ESSAY



CHIANG R A I



THE B SECTION

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons, Etc. • Science & Technology • Sports

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

TRACK RECORDS!

FRESHMAN
HANNAH ECKSTEIN

BREAKS

5000M
RECORDED

J

SENIOR
LUKE SAND

BREAKS

SHOT PUT
RECORDED

H

See page B12
for full coverage

YOUR WEEKEND FEB 9-12

1 Defensive Line.



2 Rubber Band.



3 King of the Jungle.



4 Click Magnet.



5 Condoms in Love.



9 Play Station.



8 Inner Peace.



7 Sicker than Pepe LePew.



6 Be Evolved.



14 Virus Protection.



13 Political Coverage.



12 Stop, Drop... and Roll.



11 Self Help.



10 Be a Hero.



SCRAMBLING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?

By FLORENCE LAU

Your Weekend Editor

If you're looking for a good gift to get your significant other for Valentine's Day, look no further. Here are a couple of options on campus that you can take advantage of before that special day gets here on Tuesday.

For a truly memorable Valentine's Day card, why not order them a Condom Gram?

Once again, the JHU Center for Health Education and Wellness is sponsoring their very popular Condom Grams.

Recipients will receive a card with your personalized message (120 characters maximum) as well as a free condom and instructions.

Only one Condom Gram

is allowed for each person.

Be sure to order a Condom Gram at <http://chew.wufoo.com/forms/buy-a-condom-gram-for-valentines-day/> before the fourteenth.

If Condom Grams aren't your thing, Circle K will be selling Candy-grams at the FFC on Thursday, Feb. 9th and Friday, Feb. 10th.

For only two dollars, each Candy-gram includes a chocolate and a personal note from you.

Candy-grams will be delivered on Valentine's day, and all proceeds go to charity.

If you're looking for other options, check out Charmar and Barnes and Nobles for rose-shaped chocolate, teddy bears and more.

Fancy restaurants in B'more to impress your significant other

As Valentine's Day approaches, you may be looking for a nice place to take your significant other.

Fogo de Chao is an authentic Brazilian steakhouse that offers fifteen cuts of meat and continuous tableside service. Their menu includes things like filet mignon, alcatra, pao

de queijo (warm cheese bread) and more. Reservations can be made online at <http://www.fogodechao.com/home>.

The Dogwood Restaurant is an American gourmet restaurant that is offering a special Valentine's Day menu — four courses for \$62, with items like

caviar, Chesapeake oysters and Devil's Food Cake.

For something more local, check out Woodberry Kitchen. They feature seasonal foods from local growers and serve organic meats and vegetables. If you're in the mood for food from the Chesapeake area, this is definitely the place

you'll want to stop by.

And of course, if you want to get dessert after dinner, check out Vacarro's in Little Italy. They offer a variety of gelato, cookies and other sugary treats that will fulfill your sweet tooth.

— Florence Lau

Calendar of B'More Events

Thurs. Feb. 9

Roots of American Innovation
6 — 8 p.m.
Gilman Atrium

Enjoy an exhibition showcasing famous African-Americans who have made advances in technology, art and more while mingling with the faculty. There will be hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

ADDGLITTER.COM
A BSO Valentine
8 p.m.
Joseph Meyerhoff
Symphony Hall

Singer and pianist Tony DeSare will

be performing classic romantic music just in time for Valentine's Day. Performances run through the 12th.

Fri. Feb. 10



Jazz Legends:
Satchmo & Baby Dolly
12 — 1 p.m.
City Hall

Scenes from Murphy and Smith's "Satchmo and Baby Dolly" will be set to music in this theatrical reading in the Board of Estimates Room at the City Hall.

From Opera With Love
7:30 — 9 p.m.
Germano's Trattoria

The Figaro Project will be performing love songs and

arias from various operas in honor of Valentine's Day.

Bridesmaids
8 p.m.
Remson 1

The HOP presents Bridesmaids, a comedy about a maid of honor who finds herself in one misfortune after another, as part of their Friday Films series.



Heart the Harbor
All Day
Inner Harbor Promenade

Waterfront Partnership has placed seven hearts along the promenade. Until the 19th, go to the Harbor and take a picture with one of these hearts and submit

it online in order to win prizes, including Science Center passes, National Aquarium passes, gift cards for various restaurants and more.

Zombie Gras 2
10 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Geppi's Entertainment Museum

Zombies will be roaming Geppi's Entertainment Museum and down the street to Pickle's Pub all day on Saturday. There will be a Zombie Gras Bar Crawl and a Scavenger Hunt with contests and prizes. The bar crawl will take place on the Orange Line of the Charm City Circulator, and there will be specials at each stop.

Chinese New Year Party
6:30 p.m.
Shriver Hall

The Hopkins Chinese Student Association is ringing in the Year of the Dragon by putting on a New Year's

party in Shriver. There will be games, music and dance, raffles and more.

Wishful Drinking
w/ Carrie Fisher
8:00 — 10:30 p.m.
Hippodrome Theatre

Carrie Fisher, better known as Princess Leia from the Star Wars trilogy, tells the true story about her life as a Hollywood star and what came after stardom, in what she refers to as her "Hollywood hangover."



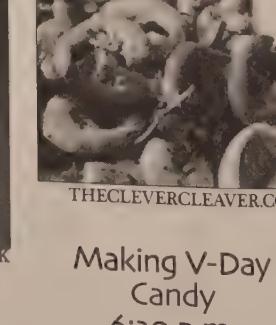
GUARDIAN.CO.UK

watching this musical about love, lust and general debauchery. Admission is \$4 for general and \$2 for those in costume.

Sun. Feb. 12

Sterling Brunch
10 — 2 p.m.
FFC

Enjoy peeling and eating shrimp, smoked salmon, chocolate bread pudding and more at the traditional Sterling Brunch this Sunday.



Making V-Day Candy
6:30 p.m.
Charles Commons Kitchen

Join Charles Commons Connections in making candy and truffles for Valentine's Day by

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Daldry movie stays Incredibly Close to book

By JENNIFER STONE
For The News-Letter

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, directed by Stephen Daldry, is a tear-jerking cinematic adaptation of Jonathan Safran Foer's 2005 novel. The plot follows young Oskar Schell's (Thomas Horn) journey to keep his father's memory alive after his tragic death during the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

From a young age, Oskar develops a close relationship with his father (Tom Hanks), as he seems to suffer from a wide array of social issues (his symptoms point to Asperger's disorder). The bond between father and son is strengthened by their mutual curiosity and thrill for expedition.

A year after the "worst day," Oskar finds a key in his father's closet, which he believes will unlock a final parting message left

SEE LOUD, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
Oskar Schell (Thomas Horn) play-fights with his father (Tom Hanks).

Down and dirty acting saves Sexual Perversity

By KEVIN EASTERLY
For The News-Letter

by his father. In his quest to keep his father's memory vivid, he embarks on a search around the five boroughs of New York to find the lock that the key opens. Throughout his journey, we see Oskar's character mature and evolve with each new character he meets. Ultimately, the key doesn't exactly end up unveiling a distinct final message for Oskar; however, the experience illustrates how the journey

is sometimes more important than the actual destination. Through his experiences, Oskar is able to face and overcome many of his fears, and, in doing so, comes to understand how life coexists simultaneously with loss.

Although, at times, the film seemed somewhat predictable (I'm largely referring to "The Renter") and dragged out, the overall product is a

SEE LOUD, PAGE B5

It's not that Bernie (played by senior Oliver Roth) and Danny's (played by senior Ian White) frequent bare-chested jaunts around the Arellano stage are not appreciated. Danny's tumblings on the bed, conveniently positioned at center stage, with short-time girlfriend Deb (played by freshman Pam Hugi), also helped keep the performance this side of PG-13.

The aspect of the play most approximating the filth that was expected and hoped for comes in the form of Bernie's lengthy anecdotes (rich in pelvic thrusts and four-letter words) both of his own sexual misadventures and those presumably passed down through some venerable oral tradition.

Who could forget the tale of the king who redirected train tracks through the house of the lady with whom he was holding sexual congress? Spoiler: just at that particular moment, enthusiastically represented by Bernie's rolling around his desk amidst his own moaning of obscenities, clang clang clang, a train rolls through and obliterates the house. Choo choo. Mamet's play is strange and largely unsatisfying. Its billing as a play that "centers on the sex lives of two men and two women in 1976," is somewhat misleading. What we really have is a story of two men who talk about sex a great deal and the two women whose paths they cross surprisingly infrequently.

The action begins in a bar with Bernie telling Danny the wild story of last night and his time



NATHALIA GIBBS/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Ian White's character Danny hits on Pamela Hugi's character Deb at a bar at the start of their relationship.

with a young woman who was probably 19 or 20, debatably a prostitute, and unquestionably had a knack for heating things up by dousing the bed in gasoline and sparking a Zippo.

This scene is followed by other tête-à-têtes at the bar. First, we have the introduction of Joan (played by sophomore Erika Rodriguez), a disillusioned elementary school teacher who spurns Bernie's creative advances.

Soon after, quirky Danny succeeds in impressing Deb, an artist who is also Joan's roommate, enough to agree to see him again. From here, Danny and Deb gradually develop a relationship, Danny being the strange but affectionate key to Deb's calm and nurturing keyhole. There is much tussling beneath the sheets.

They move in together, start fighting and eventually break up. The reason, it becomes clear, is that, despite their initial chemistry and sexual compatibility, there are ultimately barriers of communication between them that cannot be overcome.

This problem of communication extends to Bernie and Joan as well, and not only because their interaction is limited to that one scene in the bar.

As the play goes on, Joan becomes fixated by the notion that human interaction is a puzzle without a realizable answer. She struggles to articulate the meaning and implications of sexual interaction in simple terms, as she must upon discovering her students playing "doctor."

Joan resents Danny for whisking away Deb, it seems, because she is unable to find meaning in romantic relationships.

Bernie, on the other hand, is extremely vocal. He has great confidence in his ideas, even when those ideas are insensitive or ludicrous (on the Equal Rights Amendment: "There are baby seals being clubbed on the North Pole and we're worrying about broads?").

Despite his macho demeanor, Bernie's sense of fulfillment over the course of the play remains as static as Joan's. He ends the play just as he begins it: single and drinking with Danny while making lascivious comments about the fairer sex.

Even with the play's focus on the impossibility of communication, the lack of interaction between characters, especially Bernie and Joan, is disappointing and feels like missed dramatic opportunity.

All such criticism

aside, the performances of all four actors, as well as the direction, were extremely impressive and more than saved a play, which in lesser hands could easily have been underwhelming.

Roth's comedic delivery and suggestive pantomimes (as well as his '70s style mustache) had the crowd in near hysterics, as did White's ironically dry recitation and occasional interjection of strange sounds. Deb is in many ways an understated character, but Hugi struck a fine balance between Deb's compassionate nature and pride, and played especially well off of White in their numerous scenes together.

Most would say that Roth stole the show with his entertaining portrayal of Bernie but, in at least one opinion, Rodriguez matched him tit-for-tat with the intensity of Joan's monologues. The near manic frustration she exuded was as convincing a performance and, at times, as moving as any student acting here in recent memory.

All in all, though the material of the play itself was a little disappointing, the Barnstormers' production was highly enjoyable and skillfully performed.

NBC's Smash proves to be a smash hit for network

By ELIZABETH SHERWOOD
Staff Writer

Smash is the show that musical theatre fans have been waiting for.

Executive produced by Steven Spielberg among others, it premiered on Feb. 6. From its pilot episode, it is clear that it is an excellent representation of the kinks of making a Broadway show and is the answer to our thespianic prayers.

Many have been excited for this show since the first five-minute preview came out. Based on this, it was expected that the pilot would be the Katherine McPhee show, but instead it rightfully proved to be centered on the relationships between the major people who make a musical happen.

Julia Houston (played by Debra Messing) has an adequately successful writing partnership with Tom Levitt (played by Christian Borle) and currently have one original musical on Broadway.

Julia promised her husband Frank (played by Brian d'Arcy James) in their strangely outstanding apartment that she would

take a break from writing until they get approved to adopt.

However, Julia becomes fixated on the possibility of a smash. Despite the fact that it had been done in the past and did not last long, Julia is positive that they can write a musical about Marilyn Monroe. In what viewers may take to be a shout-out to Hopkins, Julia asks her son Leo, "When I say 'Marilyn,' what do you think?" He responds: "Baltimore."

Still, the idea is stuck in her head that people can't get enough of Marilyn. And, as two people point out to her, she can have a Damn-Yankees-esque, Joe-DiMaggio-related baseball number ("cause a baseball diamond is a girl's best friend").

Frank groans and fights back with, "I hate

the theatre," which is in itself ironic because James has been in multiple plays and musicals throughout his career, the most recent being *Shrek the Musical*.

Julia asks an excellent question in the episode: Why does nobody want to do new musicals anymore?

It is true that a new musical will usually not make it to Broadway unless it is a smash off-Broadway. Then it goes to a small theatre for a limited time, most likely involved with a non-profit theatre com-

pany like Vineyard Theatre.

But how do you get people to come to a show they have never heard of? To quote one such musical, [title of show], "Audiences want to see Paris Hilton in the Apple Tree."

Audiences want to see Daniel Radcliffe in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. And Darren Criss. And Nick Jonas.

So how does one put on an original musical on Broadway? Julia and Tom prove there are many

SEE SMASH, PAGE B5



COURTESY OF WWW.NBC.COM
Smash features a Broadway show-writing duo producing a show about Marilyn Monroe.

"Me Baby" is reminiscent of 1990s New York Hip Hop like Gangstar.

It is purer, and much more direct than any other rap you'll find out there today. It also possesses a comparatively lighter and offbeat sense of humor, another rare quality in an era when artists make their million rapping about drug overdoses and other heavy subjects.

Not that drug overdoses don't have their place, but somehow it feels refreshing when a Hip Hop artist unapologetically starts their track with "Holy s***, I don't really give a f***" as Big Baby does in this Single of the Week.

So everyone get on their laptops and download Big Baby's mixtape *Big F***ing Baby* and of course "Hi, It's Me Baby."

It's perfect for a lazy weekend afternoon bumming around good ol' Baltimore.

Hot Singles on
the Internet:

Big Baby
Ghandi's

"Hi, It's Me Baby"

— Rachel Schnalzer

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dissecting alternate reality in Grey's Anatomy

By RACHEL WITKIN
Managing Editor

The idea of "what if" has always been tantalizing, from the children who fantasize about being born into royalty to the adults who wonder what would have happened if they had made one different decision. In reality, it's impossible to know what would have happened in an alternate dimension of one's life. That's where television comes in.

Grey's Anatomy producer Shonda Rhimes took full advantage of the ability to manipulate reality in last week's episode, "If/Then," where she explored what Seattle Grace Hospital would have been like if Meredith Grey (played by Ellen Pompeo's mother, Ellis Grey (played by Kate Burton) had never gotten sick, and had married Richard Webber (played by James Pickens, Jr.).

The foray into this alternate Seattle Grace universe starts with a familiar note as Riley Kiley's Portions for Foxes started playing, just like it did in the first episode of the series, "A Hard Day's Night," when Meredith Grey woke up to her one-night stand with the man she later finds out is her attending, Derek Shepherd (played by Patrick Dempsey).

Instead, Meredith Grey, whose name is now Meredith Webber, appears unnaturally clad in pink, far too excited to see her parents and to go to work.

At Seattle Grace Hospital, it is revealed that Meredith Webber's "person"



COURTESY OF WWW.GIVEMEMYREMOTE.COM Guest-star Kate Walsh, who plays Addison Montgomery-Shepherd, catches up with Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez).

was never Cristina Yang (played by Sandra Oh), but perky April Kepner (played by Sarah Drew) when Meredith Webber jubilantly tells Kepner that she is engaged.

Her creepy pink happiness is outshined by Alex Karev (Justin Chambers), who waltzes in with a smile to match his ridiculous glasses. We find out that he is the lucky man who Meredith Webber is engaged to.

Meanwhile, the attendings are having an early morning staff meeting, led by Chief of Surgery Ellis Grey. Callie Torres (played by Sara Ramirez) is somehow married to Owen Hunt (played by Kevin McKidd), and Miranda Bailey (played by Chandra Wilson) has be-

come a shy, mumbling excuse for a doctor who gives up surgeries and is scared to speak her mind, the opposite of her usual character. Derek Shepherd is uninspired, unshaven and about to have a baby with his wife, Addison Montgomery-Shepherd (played by Kate Walsh).

Although Walsh is no longer a character on *Grey's Anatomy*, her appearance was absolutely integral to the episode. While this episode showed many characters in positions that seemed fake and unnatural, all viewers have ever wanted for Montgomery-Shepherd was for her to finally have a baby. That one concept is even the entire goal of her spin-off series, *Private Practice*.

However, the Shepherd marriage is far from dreamy. Even though Montgomery-Shepherd has everything she wants, she experiences the exact same problems in her marriage that existed during the second season of the show.

The cracks in this utopia become even more apparent when the "good" sister, Lexie Grey (played by Chyler Leigh) appears as a tattooed coke-head patient, the extreme of what Meredith Webber could have been if she had been dealt a different fate. While Lexie Grey is confined to her hospital bed, the "shiny, happy"

residents are all eating lunch together, excluding Yang, who has become an even more intense version of herself. This scene becomes even more wrong when the doctors start to talk about their former colleagues, George O'Malley and Izzie Stevens. Meredith Webber doesn't seem so nice when she gleefully reminisces about how she got Stevens fired by turning her in.

The world of Seattle Grace Hospital continues to unfold, as the Shepherds' marriage falls apart alongside the cookie-cutter life that Meredith Webber has created for herself. Rimes manages to find time for the medical moments that the show is known for as well, showing multiple high-stakes surgeries alongside the drama. The best moment of the episode, however, mirrored what is arguably one of the best moments in the show's history, when Mark Sloan (played by Eric Dane) appears next to Montgomery-Shepherd shirtless in the same hilarious way that he did in the season 3 episode "I Am A Tree."

This episode is another one of Rimes' successes. Not only did it provide viewers with a break from the weekly drama, but it proved that the way Rimes envisioned the series was perfect from the start.

Copping a feel for ABC's hit show Castle

On the surface, *Castle* may look a lot like *Bones*. In fact, most people have compared it to *Bones* at one time or another, as both shows involve a cop working with a civilian out in the field. However, that is where the similarities end.

The premise of *Castle* is simple: NYPD officer Kate Beckett (Stana Katic) teams up with a famous crime novelist named Richard Castle (Nathan Fillion). Together, they solve all the crimes, not without a healthy dose of sexual tension and humor. The show is unique due to Castle's perspective. After all, you see all those cookie-cutter cop shows, but how often do you see it from a crime novelist's perspective? Castle is like the forensic psychologist and walking encyclopedia all rolled into one.

And another thing that makes *Castle* such a success is that the show's writers aren't afraid to advance the relationship between the two leads. I mean, really, there are certain crime shows — ones that I shall not mention by name — that take six seasons for the guy and the girl to get together, and it all happens without much build up and then suddenly, the girl is several months pregnant... what the hell, right?

In the three-and-a-half seasons of *Castle* which have aired so far, there's been a steady building up of Castle and Beckett's relationship, from secret glances to sharing coffee to even a kiss some time in season three. When Castle and Beckett get together, it will be completely expected, which may seem like a bad thing, but trust me, you haven't experienced a bad "your favorite pairing finally happens" moment until you realize you're sitting there scratching your head and going, "Wait. What... why... how... what just happened?"

"The Blue Butterfly," which aired on Monday followed a different track than the normal *Castle* episode. Rather than the

usual "dead body appears followed by crime solving followed by catching the criminal" formula that the show usually employs, Castle and Beckett investigate a modern-day crime that took place in the 1940s by using a diary for clues as to what happened back then.

And the way they reconstruct the crime is by having the cast members portray the characters from the 1940s crime in a sort of flashback-type show-within-a-show gimmick, with Castle narrating the events.

Let me tell you right now that it was incredibly strange to see the normally workaholic Detective Beckett all decked out and speaking in seductive tongues to a private investigator version of Richard Castle. And don't even get me started on Alexis Castle (Molly Quinn), normally Castle's daughter, and her new role as the villain of the 1940s story. Completely unexpected, but completely awesome. Each actor or actress played their role to perfection, especially Katic and Fillion, who had to switch back and forth from

Florence Lau

F(1)loShow

modern day Castle-and-Beckett to 1940s Joe-and-Vera.

The modern-day crime wasn't something to scoff at either. It managed to surprise all the viewers with a twist at the end as to the identities of two people whom are introduced in the episode, connecting the 1940s to 2012 in more ways than one. If I get any more specific, I'll spoil it for everyone who reads this column, so for now, I'll just say that I heartily give this episode five solid stars and highly recommend it to everyone who likes crime, watching actors play two completely opposite roles or the 1940s.

As a side note, I also recommend it to anyone who likes to look at Nathan Fillion's face.

Castle airs at 10 p.m. EST on Mondays. The next episode will air on Feb. 13th.

Art Abroad: Exploring Florence's rich artistic history over Intersession

By BARBARA LAM
Arts & Entertainment Editor

For students looking to get away from the dreary Baltimore winter, Intersession's Italian Renaissance Art and Culture course was the perfect chance to jet off to Europe for a whirlwind class that investigated the rich artistic and cultural treasures of Florence, Italy.

The course was head-

ed by the Office of Study Abroad and took ten Hopkins students of varying class standings to the historic city to explore Italy's hub of Renaissance art. A three-credit class that spanned three weeks in January, from Jan. 7 to Jan. 27, Italian Renaissance Art and Culture (hereafter referred to simply as Renaissance Art) used Florence as a mooring point for forays into art history, whether

such forays required a simple walk to the Uffizi Gallery down the street or a train ride south to Rome.

The class focused mainly on the rise and fall of the famed Medici family and how they changed the structure of power and took Florence from a Republic to a de facto oligarchy. Many of the most celebrated works of art (Donatello's *David*, various works by Giotto, Michelangelo, even Leonardo da Vinci) were commissioned by the powerful family, who rose from mercantile obscurity to become a widely-recognized *tour de force*.

Among the course requirements were readings on the works of art by leading art historians and theorists, two analytic papers, a lengthy blog post and a presentation on a work of art given in front of the class.

This was, of course, in addition to daily-three hour lectures at various locations around the city. Churches like the Duomo, Santa Croce and Santissima Annunziata were common classrooms as were state-funded art museums such as the Bargello, the Uffizi and the Opera del Duomo. The group also took a trip to Florence's rival city-state, Siena, to see firsthand the stylistic dif-

ferences between the two cities.

One of the highlights was a tour of a relatively recent discovery beneath Siena's cathedral — a crypt richly decorated with frescoes that had been hidden by piled up rubble for centuries. The crypt was discovered in 2001 and raises questions about the use and function of the room.

Though the course leaned more heavily towards art than it did towards culture, students were encouraged to take weekend trips to other cities in Italy.

Among the popular destinations were Milan, Venice and Pisa, all easily accessible by public transportation. The chance to travel Italy outside of class time was a big draw for students, even before matriculating in the class.

Students also had the opportunity to enjoy sightseeing and culture in each of the cities they visited.



COURTESY OF HSIA-TING CHANG



COURTESY OF HSIA-TING CHANG

Donatello's *David* was one of the works of art that students examined.

context and think about how its contemporaries would have interacted with the object."

Sophomore Dan Deutsch concurred with Trnovska's enthusiasm, saying, "Since it was my first trip to Europe, I was very happy that I was able to experience a different culture for the first time. My favorite part was traveling to six different cities during the trip."

Intersession's Renaissance Art is just one of many programs that the Office of Study Abroad offers over the January break.

Intersession academic trips give Hopkins students a chance to travel beyond the scope of the Baltimore's insular metropolitan area and to participate in an exchange of ideas in a global community.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NEW VIBRATIONS

ARTIST
The Fray
ALBUM
Scars and Stories
LABEL
Epic
RELEASED
Feb. 7, 2012

If you played a drinking game with The Fray's latest album and took a shot every time they sang about love or hearts, you'd be on the floor by the third song.

So, sure, they're not the most inventive of groups. But since their illustrious debut, 2005's *How To Save A Life*, these Denver, Colorado pop rockers have been churning out hits and television soundtracks with the best of them. And for good reason: few bands do an earnest, soaring power ballad like The Fray.

Snow Patrol and Keane have fallen by the wayside for the most part, and Coldplay actually gets points for trying to re-invent themselves with each disc.

So while the material on *Scars And Stories* definitely doesn't differ much from their previous self-titled album, and it unfortunately doesn't reach the heights of their debut, there is still some good stuff to be found here.

For one, lead singer

Isaac Slade has an endearingly distinctive voice, reaching for the rafters with passion. They may not be revamping music any time soon, but at least they're putting their hearts into it at every turn.

The band's harmonies and instrumentation are as tight and melodious as ever, thanks in part to expert and effective production by Brendan O'Brien, who adds in a thicker, more rock flavor to some of the songs (near the tail end of the album, "Here We Are" is a standout with its churning drum beats and decisive choruses).

Starting out with lead single "Heartbeat," which is classic Fray with its propulsive beats and loves-truck chorus, *Scars And Stories*

only gets better as it goes along.

Inspired by a Norman Rockwell painting, "The Fighter" can get a little cheesy lyrics-wise, but the chorus is lovely in its simplicity, especially when delivered in Brock's pitch-perfect falsetto. Upcoming single "Run For Your Life" is instantly radio friendly with its jang-

gle of bells and sweeping energy.

There are some real gems here if you take the time and don't mind a couple clichés along the way.

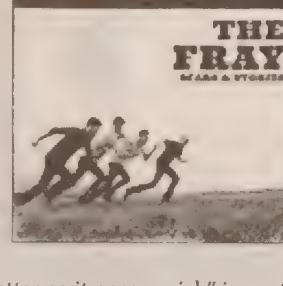
For one, "48 To Go," which tells the story of Slade and his wife getting hopelessly off-course on a road trip to California, is charmingly delightful with its upbeat guitars, chimes and bells; it's a nice change if all you know of The Fray is the piano-driven melancholy of "How To Save A Life." Meanwhile, "1961" and "Munich" take on some new territory for the band, the former being a description of two brothers at the Berlin Wall. Though things of course never get too political ("Mu-

nich" in particular is kind of a dubious title, though the song itself is beautifully crafted), it's interesting to see the "stories" part of the album's title come into play.

So, while The Fray's latest isn't going to offer you anything too different from their previous releases, or from albums like *A Rush Of Blood To The Head* or *The Script*, for that matter, there is still enough heart in this collection of songs to make it worth a listen.

Within their own genre, the band is reliably eloquent and endlessly polished. Whether you're hopelessly romantic or dejected in love, there's something for everyone on *Scars And Stories*.

— Melanie Love



ARTIST
Air
ALBUM

Le Voyage Dans La Lune

LABEL

Astralwerks

RELEASED

Feb. 6, 2012

practically invented that genre.

So, surprise! The laid-back tempos and rhythms aren't in this album. Ok, they're in two tracks, but two tracks out of 11 isn't a great ratio for a group that defines themselves on chill. And, thankfully, they haven't disappeared into the dubstep craze (which isn't to say I don't like it, but, please, electronica is not and should not be dubstep).

Man, look at me dance all around this bush. Look, the album isn't bad. It's pretty passable.

It won't change your life, and, if you like Air, you might want to give this baby a listen. But most of you won't want to.

Moon Safari (1998) and Talkie Walkie (2004) stand out among the vast legions of chill albums as triumphs. So, you can imagine the expectations I'd laid on *Le Voyage dans la Lune* (2012). Besides the basis it has on George Méliès'

1902 film, it looked, like many of their past works, to be a step in the right direction.

Well, it's not. I can't say it's a step in the wrong direction. But I can't really say it's a step in any direction.

(Which, by the way, plays into my commentary on electronica in general).

See, most artists are distinguished by one album and then either fail to recreate it over and over, or radically diverge from it such that they never produce anything as wholly worthwhile again. (Some examples of this are RJD2 and DJ Shadow).

But Air has never been like that. Each album they make has some new value, some new force that expands on their sound. And, at their core, they put out chill electronica. They



Here, I'll list out the songs with terrible drums that you should skip. Oh, isn't that convenient, they're all in the first half of the album. Cool. So, start the album at track five ("Moon Fever") and you're pretty much golden.

There's a few odds and ends in there ("Decolage" I'm looking at you) but the rest of it is pretty solid. Luckily, in the day and age of iTunes, you can forgo the whole album in favor of just a few songs.

And, listen, as much as I love saying "Get this whole album and listen to the thing from front to back, even the crappy stuff in between" I can't in good conscience as a critic recommend that.

So go ahead. Get the singles. Get the singles and run.

— Buddy Sola

Extremely Loud praise for new 9/11 film

LOUD, FROM B3

refreshing representation of the loss that our nation incurred on September 11. The story allows the audience to remember the tragic day but with the twist of viewing it through the experience of one unique nine-year-old.

Another drawback of the film is the unsympathetic nature of the main character.

Although Oskar contains many admirable qualities such as his superb intellect, independence and wisdom beyond years, his introvert personality is difficult to relate to.

Moreover, his actions, at times, come off as selfish and cruel; namely, the exchange he has with his mother during which he bursts out telling her he wishes she had died instead.

Additionally, critics may argue that a more believable and plausible plot would result in a higher impact film for despite the engaging story line, the account is unrealistic.

On a different and more positive note, the caliber of the cast is truly deserving of mention; it undoubtedly enhances the quality of the narration and takes the story to another level.

Tom Hanks, who is al-

ways a favorite, gives another solid performance as Oskar's loving, energetic and playful father.

Newcomer (Teen Jeopardy winner) Thomas Horn displays tremendous talent as the lead. He embodies the full complexity of his young yet wise character and invokes real emotion within the audience. However, the true standing ovation must go to Sandra Bullock who plays Oskar's mother. Although her character received a mere 24 minutes of screen time, Bullock's performance is unparalleled.

She perfectly captures the devastation of a 9/11 widow who has suddenly lost the love of her life and must struggle to form a connection with the only thing she has left in this world. Furthermore, both Bullock and Horn are able to portray the constant internal battle between strength and weakness that humans face post hardship.

All in all, the take-home message of the film is the importance of understanding the human experience — that of comprehending that tragedy, in different forms, is a part of all existence but must not overpower the happiness that simultaneously defines human life.

The video goes viral, and theatre bloggers begin to make snap judgments about the Marilyn show, which Tom and Julia have not finished writing.

It's a real situation that is, of course, exacerbated by Twitter and Facebook, where any new information about shows can be available to all of the people who care, making the show vulnerable to unwanted criticism.

But then Frank realizes that some big-shot from the *New York Post* (guessing they read it ironically?) loves Marilyn Monroe and is a huge fan of the writing team.

Now they have to find their director. Eileen Rand (played by Anjelica Huston), the show's producer, is set on hiring Derek Wills (played by Jack Davenport) as director. But Derek and Tom have a history of not getting along with each other.

NBC's Smash spotlights Broadway pros

FROM SMASH, PAGE B3

bumps along the way.

First off, Tom thinks that he knows the perfect Marilyn. Although she is not famous, Ivy Lynn (played by Megan Hilty) is a fantastic chorus girl who is in their musical that is already on Broadway. Furthermore, she has the experience and background in Broadway that makes her such a strong candidate.

Next, Julia becomes upset because Tom's new assistant leaks a video online of Ivy singing one of the songs from the show in a private recording session.

The video goes viral, and theatre bloggers begin to make snap judgments about the

Marilyn show, which Tom and Julia have not finished writing.

It's a real situation that is, of course, exacerbated by Twitter and Facebook, where any new information about shows can be available to all of the people who care, making the show vulnerable to unwanted criticism.

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COURTESY OF WWW.NBC.COM

Ivy (played by Megan Hilty) does a heart-stopping rendition of Marilyn in a proposed baseball number.

Tom's choice for the part of Marilyn is still

Ivy, but all of them are blown away by Karen Cartwright (played by Katherine McPhee), a sad-looking, struggling Iowan actress who is trying to pursue her dreams in New York.

By pretending to sing Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful" to her handsome boyfriend during the audition, Karen has the confidence to nail her audition song and goes head to head with Ivy.

Whenever either of the two ladies sing, the cameras switch back and forth from reality to the purple glow of the stage where they picture themselves. Derek at first brushes off Tom's idea of using Ivy because she is not an "icon."

But then Frank realizes that some big-shot from the *New York Post* (guessing they read it ironically?) loves Marilyn Monroe and is a huge fan of the writing team.

Now they have to find their director. Eileen Rand (played by Anjelica Huston), the show's producer, is set on hiring Derek Wills (played by Jack Davenport) as director. But Derek and Tom have a history of not getting along with each other.

actress's rise to fame. Karen

is still innocent and fresh air, just as Marilyn was, but Ivy is a talented, seasoned Broadway actress. Both girls get callbacks and sing an original song.

The creators of the show stress the similarities between these actresses and their characters, debatable as that may be. McPhee, an American Idol runner-up, is essentially a reality TV star while Hilty just finished her run in *9 to 5: The Musical* playing Dolly Parton.

It is impossible to keep from comparing the two actresses — Hilty has a strong, Broadway voice while McPhee has a beautiful but technically weaker voice that is perfect for pop music.

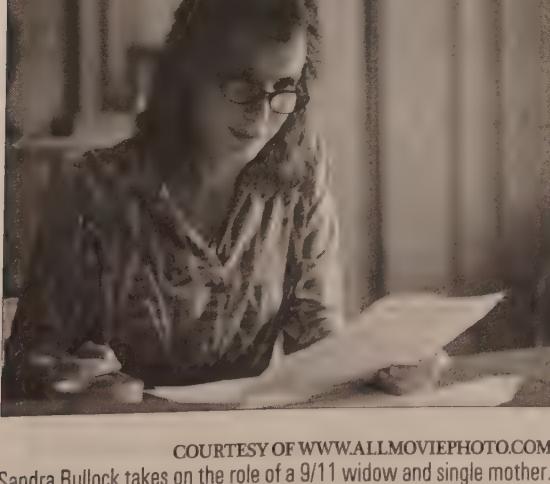
The talent in this cast is beyond impressive. The show's creator, Theresa Rebeck, wrote a wonder-

ful play, *Seminar*, which is currently on Broadway and stars Alan Rickman (also known as Harry Potter's Severus Snape). All of the aforementioned crew members have been on Broadway or in multiple films and TV shows.

They even speak with perfect enunciation, further emphasizing their experience on the stage. The new songs in this show are also fantastic, which makes it different than *Glee*, and the premise is strong.

Smash commercializes a small but influential world that exists in the few blocks that make up the Great White Way.

There is definitely enough drama in this cruel business to write fourteen seasons of the show. With this much talent and this class, future episodes of NBC's newest television gambit are sure to please.



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

Sandra Bullock takes on the role of a 9/11 widow and single mother.

CARTOONS, ETC.

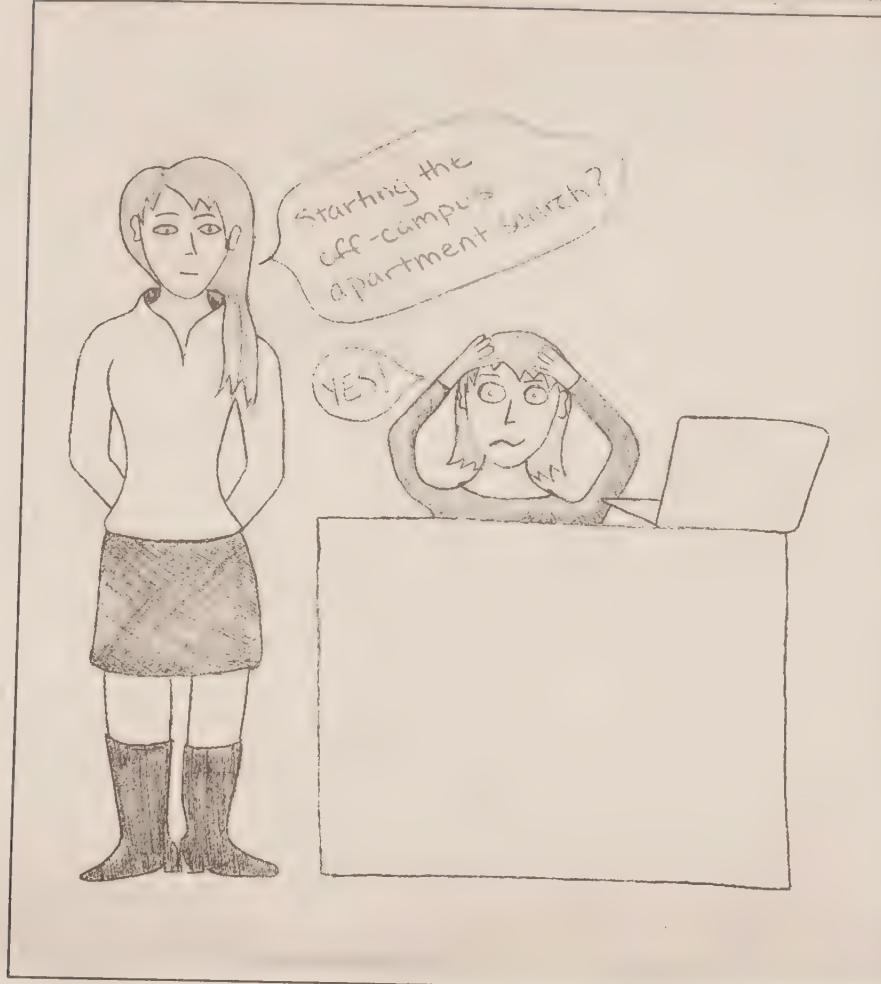
Blue Jay Brigade

By Kevin Stoll Li



Off Campus Housing Search

By Katie Mann

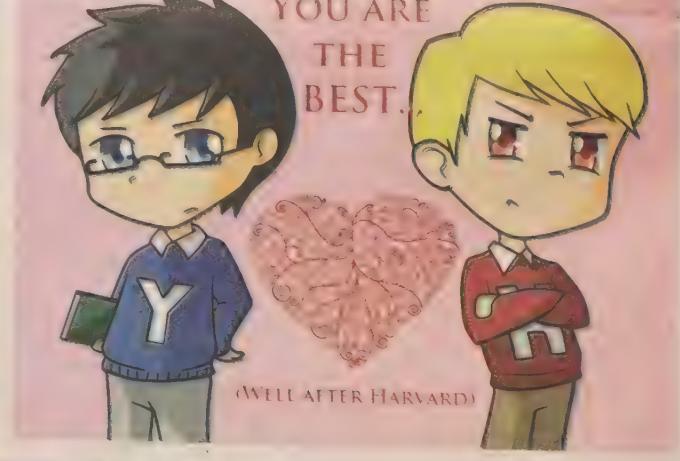


WHOA! HEY GUYS, CHECK IT OUT!
THIS WEEK YOU CAN CUT OUT YOUR OWN VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS.



HOP.MOV

By Kevin Stoll Li



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New technique induces cell differentiation Cooling methods harmed Japanese reactors

By MICHAEL YAMAKAWA
Staff Writer

The Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine recently published a study on pluripotency in *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*. The study engages the possibility of repudiating the popularly conceived notion that pluripotency is necessary to achieve transformation from a general cell type into a specific one. Pluripotency is the process by which stem cells become differentiated into specific cell types.

In the study, the skin of mice was converted into neural precursor cells (NPCs). NPCs are, as the name suggests, precursors of neurons, which means that NPCs can develop into neurons along the way. However, the versatility of NPCs — one of the reasons that NPCs are an attractive option for the transformation of

skin cells — includes the growth into astrocytes and oligodendrocytes as well.

The employment of this new method to cultivate specialized cells has multiple advantages over mainstream techniques. One traditional method utilizes stem cells. Stem cells, which are biological cells that can divide and differentiate into various cells with specialized functions, are isolated from blastocysts, which are an aggregation of cells that eventually become embryos in mammals.

The harvesting of stem cells requires the destruction of the embryo and instigates great controversy in the field. Furthermore, it is difficult to genetically match the stem cells to the implantation site in the adult.

However, the achievement of induced pluripotency was able to avoid the contravention of current executive laws against embryo destruction. Induced pluripotent cells (iPS cells)

SEE CELLS, PAGE B8



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Neural precursor cells can be an alternative to stem cells in future research.

By VIVEK SINANAN
Staff Writer

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, recently discovered adverse radioactive effects of seawater used to cool nuclear plant damaged during the natural disaster that struck Japan almost a year ago.

On March 11, 2011, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake struck off the eastern coast of Japan. The disaster resulted in over 15,000 confirmed deaths and 3,300 still listed as missing. With an estimated cost of \$235 billion, the earthquake and its aftereffects, including the 40-foot tsunami that slammed into the Japanese coast, mark the most expensive natural disaster in human history.

The tsunami caused by the earthquake's tremors resulted in a nuclear crisis at the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Meltdowns due to overheating at three of the plant's six nuclear generators resulted in the release of radioactive material, subsequently causing the Japanese government to declare a 20 km danger zone around the damaged plant.

The tsunami that topped the ineffective seawall at the power plant damaged the backup generators that were being used in the absence of electricity to cool the generators. This resulted in overheating of the nuclear cores of the first three reactors.

The heat given off by the overheated reactors was indicative of spontaneous radioactive decay, since even after the reactor was turned off, there were still enough unstable particles in the surroundings that can release radioactive compounds spontaneously and give off heat energy. To combat this, authori-



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Exposure of nuclear fuel rods to seawater forms corrosive peroxides, causing the release of uranium ions.

ties used seawater to cool the reactors. Even though this method was effective, it also caused the reactors to become damaged beyond repair.

The scientists at the University of California analyzed the effects of using seawater to cool nuclear reactors, such as those damaged at Fukushima. Under controlled conditions, they replicated the events at the power plant, reacting irradiated nuclear fuel and water containing various levels of ions found in seawater. Results showed that the compounds created by the reaction caused corrosion of the nuclear fuel.

The compounds formed by this reaction, called peroxides, form when seawater is stagnant and non-flowing, much like the way seawater was trapped after

it was used to cool the reactors during the catastrophe in Japan. The peroxides then corrode radioactive uranium compounds, leading to the release of uranium atoms.

Nonetheless, their findings prove conclusively that peroxides are produced where water comes directly into contact with nuclear fuel, especially at the surface of the fuel where the water is relatively stagnant.

This criteria for peroxide formation corresponds directly to the cooling of the reactor cores at Fukushima-Daiichi, thus raising the hypothesis that stable uranium compounds are probably at these locations in high concentrations. Although their stability does not make them an immediate threat, the presence of uranium atoms nevertheless poses a long term concern.

Silk fibers used to repair heart tissue

By SAHDIA KHAN
For The News-Letter

As the body develops over time, nearly all of the heart's regeneration mechanisms become inactive. Consequently, after a heart attack, dead cardiac cells do not redevelop. Instead, dead cardiac muscle tissue is replaced by inactive scar tissue, which permanently weakens the functionality of the heart and often damages quality of life.

In response to this problem, scientists have attempted to create heart patches made of fibers on which new cardiomyocytes, or heart cells, can grow. Thus far, all the fibers tested have not been able to support cell growth. However, recent research conducted at Max Planck's In-

stitute for Heart and Lung Research suggests that silk from silkworm could serve as the best scaffold for cardiomyocytes.

Researchers used the cocoon from the tasar silkworm to produce coin-sized disks as a surface for the heart cells to grow. In contrast to other fibers such as fibrin, nanofiber, gold nanowires and polymer that are often brittle and subject to imminent attack by the immune system, the coarseness and the adhesive qualities of silk make it an ideal surface for muscle cell growth.

Additionally, silkworm silk contains specific proteins which permit bonding of cardiomyocytes to its exterior. When the silk was used in a test at the Max Planck Institute, rat heart cells that attached to

its surface remained functional and beat in unison for 20 days. Furthermore, investigators are currently exploring the possibility of converting stem cells to heart cells as a means of obtaining human heart cells for growth.

The silk's clinical application is still under investigation because of the risks involved in procuring safe quantities of heart cells from patients. Nevertheless, the discovery of silkworm silk for regeneration of heart tissue ends the long and exhaustive hunt for an alternative method of growing heart cells. The use of silkworm silk in the heart could potentially maximize heart functionality during the human lifespan and is considered a breakthrough in the cardiac world.



COURTESY OF WWW.COASTALSILKWORMS.COM

The coarseness and adhesive qualities of silkworm silk allow cardiac cell growth, improving heart function.

Miracle tree produces cleaner water

By MO-YU ZHOU
Staff Writer

What makes a tree a 'miracle tree'? The plant known as *Moringa oleifera*, or drumstick tree (due to the shape of its seedpods), has been dubbed miraculous by some who are optimistic about its ability to increase the availability of clean water to areas susceptible to drought and contamination. This thin-branched tree has seeds that attract and destroy bacteria in water. These intriguing properties have led several teams of researchers to investigate the *Moringa* tree's applications to cleaning water.

Many regions in Asia, Africa and South America that face shortages in potable water also happen to have an abundant supply of *Moringa* trees. In turn, a single tree can produce a large amount of seeds — up to 15,000. This makes using *Moringa* trees a relatively sustainable solution to the problem.

A group of researchers from Pennsylvania State University, led by chemical engineer Stephanie Veleogol, is one of several teams developing methods to clean drinking water using the *Moringa* tree. Veleogol's method involves developing a kind of filter that could be easily replicated by people at home. The filter would simply consist of some ordinary sand and *Moringa* seeds. The team's findings were published last November in *Langmuir*.

Veleogol's method involves crushing *Moringa* seeds and mixing them with water. After an hour has elapsed, the water is poured onto some ordinary sand, while the solid pieces of *Moringa* seed



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Research shows seeds of *Moringa* tree could improve water quality.

are discarded. The sand is then rinsed after another hour. As a result of this process, the pieces of ordinary sand become coated with the active antibacterial protein from the *Moringa* seeds.

Using such a filter is superior to simply stirring crushed *Moringa* seeds into water. This is because the latter method causes water to become contaminated after a while. The seed, while antibacterial at first, will attract new bacteria after a certain amount of time. In fact, according to Habauka Kwaambwa, a chemist at the University of Botswana, water that is

treated only with crushed *Moringa* seeds can only be stored for a maximum of 24 hours. Veleogol's method bypasses this concern by making use of the protein inside the seeds, rather than the seeds themselves.

Currently, many governments distribute chlorine to people who use wells, rivers and ponds as sources of water. However, *Moringa* seeds may prove to be an attractive alternative. For instance, the taste of chlorinated water is not very pleasant. Research led by Philip Makutsa of CARE Kenya has found

SEE FILTER, PAGE B8

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Cleaner water made possible naturally

BY MELANIE HSU
Staff Writer

FIRTH, FROM B7
that half or fewer of people who have tried chlorinating water continue this method, even though doing so is effective in preventing diarrhea. In addition, locals may find it more appealing to use materials that are readily available.

The team has confirmed that the Moringa filter is effective against *E. coli* bacteria in water, and muddy water is made clearer by the process. However, the researchers still need to test the filter's effectiveness when in contact with other bacteria. Further research also needs to be done on how much seed is necessary to filter a given amount of water. If it transpires that the Moringa seed method is insufficient

in both cases, it may be used alongside chlorine.

If all goes smoothly, the sand filter could be tested in an actual village or town in about a year. While lab studies have confirmed the antibacterial capabilities of the Moringa seed, few field tests have been performed. Jacqueline Firth of the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University led one such field tests in 2010, but found that the seeds were not very effective.

It remains to be seen whether further tests, both in the lab and in actual villages and towns, will yield positive results. In the meantime, other research teams are working on alternative methods of using Moringa seeds to clean water.



COURTESY OF WWW.ILOVEMORINGA.COM
The usage of Moringa seeds as water filter is effective against *E. coli*.

A team of ecologists recently captured the vocalizations of deep-sea fish in a recording that includes familiar sounds, such as dolphin and humpback whale calls. These findings support long-standing hypotheses about fish communication in the underexplored mesopelagic zone.

The mesopelagic, or twilight zone, marks the boundary between the sunlit surface layers and the freezing, oxygen-poor deep water. As oxygen-rich surface waters become colder and saltier, its density increases and causes it to sink. The sharp drop in temperature also serves as a barrier between the surface and deep-sea animals.

Over 50 years ago, researchers hypothesized that sound production would be common in mesopelagic fish based on the observation that many discovered species possess the anatomy needed to produce sound. While most fishes unintentionally produce sounds from chewing and swimming, deep-sea fish may require communication for survival and reproduction.

The dimly-lit waters of the twilight zone and the great distance between fellow fish may warrant such an adaptation in pelagic fish. However, Rodney Rountree, a marine ecologist at the University of Massachusetts, notes that fish will not necessarily vocalize just because they have the anatomy to do so.

Scientists know little about deep-sea fish sounds due to the scarcity of research papers concerning this topic. Rountree notes that the vocalizations of deep-water fish cannot be recorded simply by placing the fish in tanks and eaves-

Vocalizations from deep-sea fish recorded



COURTESY OF WWW.OCEANEXPLORER.NOAA.GOV

Recordings of deep-sea fish vocalizations shed light upon the mysteries of previously unknown ocean critters.

dropping on their conversations.

According to Rountree, pelagic fishes are very difficult to keep alive in the lab, and the fish will not produce sounds unless researchers can elicit certain behaviors. For instance, the fish will not produce reproductive sounds unless they can be made to spawn in the laboratory — a Herculean task considering the difficulty in mimicking correct environmental conditions.

Researchers have not previously recorded deep-sea fish in their natural habitat, mostly due to the lack of adequate, low-cost technology. However, Rountree and his colleagues worked with commercial fishermen to develop a simple deep-water hydrophone. The team recorded deep-water sounds from the sea floor of Welker's Canyon, at a depth of approximately

862 meters below the surface for 24 hours.

From the recording, the team successfully identified various sounds from whales and other known cetaceans, but they also detected at least 12 other unidentifiable sounds. The unique vocalizations consisted of drumming, grunts and duck-like calls, and could have originated from either whales or deep-water fish.

Rountree says that most fish only hear and produce low-frequency sounds, and the sounds that the team recorded fell in the frequency range that fish typically use. If the sounds were actually produced by deep-sea fish, then increases in man-

made noises in the coming years may be problematic for these fish.

The vocalizations recorded by the team were just barely above the background noise. As a result, if the noise continues to increase, it may prevent the fishes from receiving each other's signals. Rountree's team is currently trying to develop an audio system that includes video, in hope of identifying the creatures responsible for the sounds. However, the price to develop this system will be high because of the power needed to keep the light on for deep-sea investigation. The team also hopes to figure out the meaning behind the grunts and other calls.

Bar, night club workers harmed by cigarette smoke

By ERICK SUN
Staff Writer

Airborne pollution can come in many forms, but one of the most dangerous ones is secondhand smoke. While many individuals can avoid significant exposure, employees of bars and restaurants that do not have bans on smoking are forced to work in a potentially hazardous environment.

A study done by the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in collaboration with other institutes investigated how much secondhand smoke can really find its way into the body. Their findings were reported in the most recent edition of *British Medical Journal*.

From 2007 to 2009, researchers took samples from 24 bars and restaurants in America, Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. They included 10 venues per city and five employees per venue. In total, 625 non-smoking and 311 smoking employees were subjected to testing to build an incredibly large and diverse study on the topic.

Locations ranged from bars right here in Baltimore all the way to Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia. The basis of the study looked to compute air nicotine concentrations at each location and then see if there was any correlation between that and the nicotine concentrations in the subjects' hair, a good biomarker of nicotine presence in people.

The data collected showed that air nicotine concentrations ranged from $0.1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $0.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in non-smoking locations and from $1.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to $8.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in smoking areas, a dramatic but expected increase.

Along with samples of air quality, the researchers

took samples of hair from their selected participants in order to determine if there was any correlation to higher air nicotine levels. In order to maintain consistency throughout the data, researchers went to such lengths as taking hair near the back of the scalp where hair growth is uniform amongst different people.

Researchers then utilized gas chromatography-mass spectrometry to determine hair nicotine amounts. After analyzing the results, they were able to determine that for each $1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase in air nicotine concentrations, hair nicotine concentration went up five percent for non-smokers and three percent for smokers.

In order to account for other possible sources of nicotine, each participant was asked a series of questions to allow researchers to make necessary adjustments for age, sex, education, living with a smoker, hair treatment, region and former smoking status.

In conclusion to their data, the researchers believe that not enough bars and restaurants have rules against smoking, which puts their very own employees at risk. The 2012 study cited research done in 1993, which found that there is about a 50 percent increase in lung cancer risk among employees in bars and restaurants compared to the general population.

However, as of 2011, only 11 percent of the world's population fell under protection of some sort of policy prohibiting smoking in bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

The study suggests that there is not enough non-smoking legislation but also recognizes the strides that have been made in recent years toward reducing the number of smoking venues. Researchers found that since 2008, over 385 million people have fallen under protection of smoke-free laws, a 6 percent increase in the world's population that is protected. The key now is to continue that trend in order to allow employees of bars and restaurants to breathe clean air.

The next step toward artificial cell specialization is transdifferentiation, which is the process of a non-stem cell transforming into a different type of cell. In early 2010, Marius Wernig and his colleagues successfully converted a mouse skin cell into a developed neuron.

They later repeated the experiment with human skin cells and successfully cultivated neurons from skin and liver cells.

These neurons are termed induced neurons or iNPs.

After ten weeks, the neurons in the mice were myelinated, as the injected iNPs converted to oligodendrocytes, which are cells that wrap myelin around neurons.

This suggests that iNPs are functional in animal models.

The usage of these three transcription factors can generate iNPs at very high efficiency.

Another advantage of this method is that unlike iPS cells, the cultures contain homogeneous populations — iNPs

— thus deeming screening procedures unnecessary.

The Wernig lab is currently working on replicating the experiment on human skin cells.

Although further research must be done to ensure the safety for human applications of iNPs, these cells may be very useful for studying human diseases on a petri dish.

From the controversial embryonic stem cells to iNPs, researchers have been discovering more efficient and less controversial means of developing cells.



COURTESY OF WWW.WHYSTOPSMOKING.COM

The adverse effects of smoking can be detected via nicotine concentration in hair roots of those exposed.

Safer alternative to stem cells discovered

CELLS, FROM B7

are derived from specialized cells from adults that are driven back along their developmental stages to become stem-cell-like cells, which can, in turn, be cultivated in specific environments to re-specialize into different types.

The inherent disadvantage of iPS cells, however, is the necessary screenings for remaining pluripotent cells that did not differentiate. These cells, if overlooked, can be an origin of cancer.

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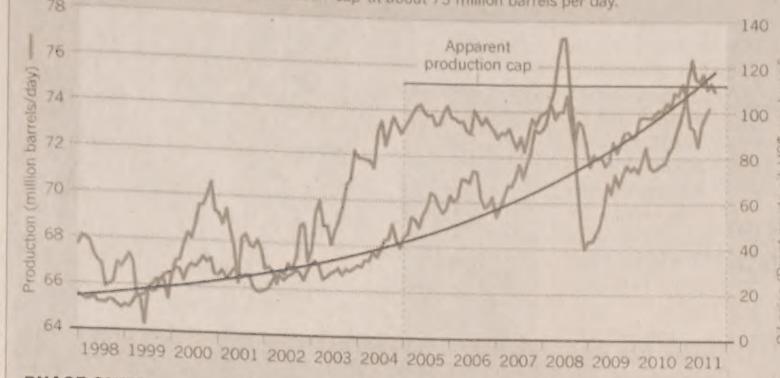
From the controversial embryonic stem cells to iNPs, researchers have been discovering more efficient and less controversial means of developing cells.

They devised an experiment, in which skin cells of mice were infected with a virus that encoded eleven transcription factors prevalent in NPCs (transcription factors are proteins that facilitate the genetic expression of a protein).

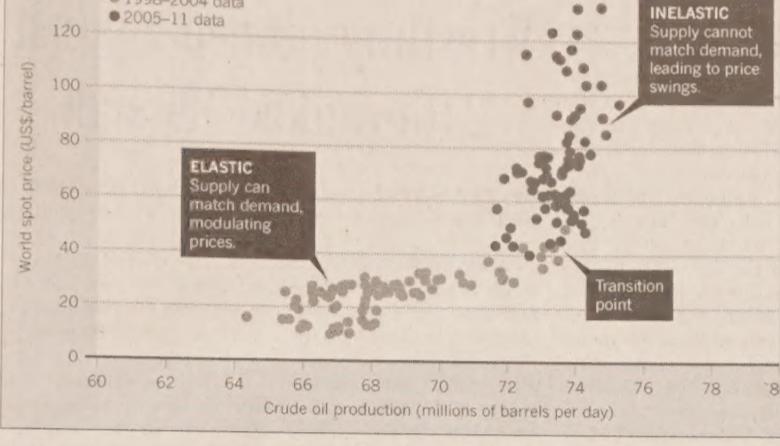
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

OIL PRODUCTION HITS A CEILING

Production followed demand until 2005, when it levelled off despite continued price increases. There seems to be a production 'cap' at about 75 million barrels per day.

**PHASE SHIFT**

The abrupt change in oil economics can be seen in this scatter plot of production versus price.



COURTESY OF CLIMATE POLICY: OIL'S TIPPING POINT HAS PASSED
Oil production has hit the maximum barrels per day, but prices have continued to rise after a sharp drop in 2009.

Petroleum stores becoming scarce

By LILY NEWMAN
Editor-in-Chief

Petroleum from recently discovered sources is just barely making up for the dirth left by old and depleted supplies, according to a report in *Nature*.

"There is less fossil-fuel production available to us than many people believe," the researchers wrote.

Abundant oil reserves have recently been discovered in Brazil and North Dakota, but research shows that the world's supply has leveled off at 75 million barrels a day. This maximum has arrived a year earlier than originally predicted by the International

Energy Agency.

Petroleum powers most of the things associated with societal development and progress today including manufacturing, cars and even other forms of energy such as electricity.

The article noted that the world has used one trillion barrels of oil so far and probably has another trillion barrels worth left below ground.

Extracting this second trillion will be much more labor and cost intensive, though.

"We are not running out of oil, but we are running out of oil that can be produced easily and cheaply," the researchers wrote.

Additionally, coal and natural gas, which have

both been touted as abundant alternative fuels, may not provide solutions in the long term. The article asserts that their prevalence has been largely overstated.

The researchers highlighted economic repercussions as well.

"If oil production can't grow, the implication is that the economy can't grow either. This is such a frightening prospect that many have simply avoided considering it."

Looking forward, the researchers are proposing that realistic consideration of fuel limitations be included in energy studies, and that this research focus on fuel efficiency and conservation.

Photosynthesis incorporated into solar energy system

Researchers from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Massachusetts Institute of Technology have developed a solar collection system that mixes organic system with inorganic components. The results of the collaboration, led by Barry Bruce of UT, were published in *Nature: Scientific Reports*.

Taking key components of photosystem-I from blue-green algae, the researcher bioengineered a complex that can interact with a semi-conductor. Their semi-conductors, tubes composed of zinc-oxide, were designed to attract the complexes of photosystem-I components. The complex becomes excited when struck by sunlight, causing an electron to jump to an excited state and into the semiconductor, thus creating an electrical current.

Bruce has been recognized for his prior work on the subject, with the most recent mechanism proving to be much more efficient by orders of magnitude. While there is still a significant amount of ground the researchers have to cover before a feasible device can be developed, the researchers are optimistic that they can make rapid progress.

Breath analysis can detect early signs of disease

A new "breathalyzer" designed for metabolic

Biochemistry Briefs



COURTESY OF WWW.VETMED.DUHS.DUKE.EDU
Mouse models detect early signs of disease via metabolic changes.

changes can detect for early signs of disease, according to new work from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Researchers were able to develop a method for detecting the ratio of carbon isotopes and determine whether glucose or protein is primarily being metabolized. Their results were published in the journal *Metabolism*.

Using a mouse model for polycystic ovary syndrome, researchers injected the mice with glucose that was labeled with radioactive isotope carbon-13. By comparing the ratio of carbon-13 to carbon-12 in the mice of the breath, the researchers were able to determine whether there were any differences in what the mice had metabolized within minutes. They measured this ratio using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy of blood serum samples and cavity ring-down spectroscopy for breath samples, the latter proving exciting for its noninvasiveness.

Normally, ingested sources of food is broken down as an energy source, but when someone is ill they will breakdown proteins in order to produce antibodies. This ratio can also be used to make quick diagnoses of other diseases, such as obesity, diabetes and cancer.

Fluorescent protein aids scientific research

Chemists at North Carolina State University recently engineered a chemical label that can tag proteins of interest without disrupting their normal functions or the cells they inhabit. Alex Dieters, associate professor of chemistry, and Jason Chin, researcher at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology at the Medical Research Council in Cambridge, discovered a way to attach fluorophores to a protein that is expressed in a mammalian cell.

Fluorescent proteins, which are twenty times larger than a fluorophore, are chemistry's current badge maker. The fluorophore's size gives it a major advantage, as fluorescent proteins are often large enough to disrupt the functions of their protein partners. To facilitate the fluorophore's connection, Dieters and Chin synthesized a 21st amino acid and added it to cells that were designed to incorporate it into the proteins they wished to investigate. The amino acid lacked cellular components but possessed a special chemical handle that reacted only with a specifically designed fluorophore.

According to the researchers, the reaction between the modified protein and the fluorophore generated a high yield, required fewer reagents, and stably linked both reaction participants, presenting an effective means of studying previously inaccessible biological processes.

—Briefs by Melanie Hsu and Ian Yu

APL develops battery temperature sensor

By IAN YU
Managing Editor

Most of the battery-powered electronics you use, as well as battery packs in electric-powered and hybrid vehicles, rely on lithium-ion batteries. They are popular for their high energy density, resulting in growing interest from other industries. However, cases of battery fires have been responsible for recalls of many devices in recent years, raising safety concerns among consumers and manufacturers.

To help prevent batteries from reaching dangerously high temperatures, scientists at the Hopkins Applied Physics Lab have developed an inexpensive sensor to monitor the internal temperature of the battery.

Publishing their findings in *Electronica Acta*, the group found that by passing a small alternating current of electricity at a specific frequency through the battery, which could be powered by the battery's normal operations, they can assess the internal temperature of the battery.

Their work was also presented at the SPIE conference on Defense, Security and Sensing. In addition, the details of their work in developing the sensor have been published in the *Journal of Power Sources*.

According to Rengaswamy Srinivasan, a chemist at the Applied Physics Lab and lead author of the papers, the battery can be shut off via an on-off switch at the first sign of trouble by monitoring the internal temperature of the battery.



COURTESY OF WWW.IMSUPPLIER.COM
Lithium ion batteries such as those used in laptops have a risk of overheating, causing damage to electronics.

"The anode and cathode temperature rises as the cell is discharged. The anode and the cathode temperature should not exceed certain limit (for example: 70 °C in some cells), and if they tend toward such a high value, the cell should be disabled from discharge," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Currently, electronics rely on external temperature sensors to physically assess the temperature of the battery, which may not be accurate. "At present, there are surface-mounted temperature sensors that monitor the temperature of the cell's outside surface, and some algorithm in a microchip infers the internal temperature of the battery. The

present approach could be wrong and potentially misleading," Srinivasan wrote.

"Our technique shows that the rate of change and the direction of change of the anode and cathode temperatures do not correlate with the direction or rate of change of the surface temperature."

Their sensor functions by detecting phase changes in the alternating-current that passes through the battery, which has a correlation to the temperature of the battery's interior. Like waves, electricity peaks at specific points in time and location, and a phase change arises from a shift in where and when these peaks are, as measured through the resulting voltage from the

applied current.

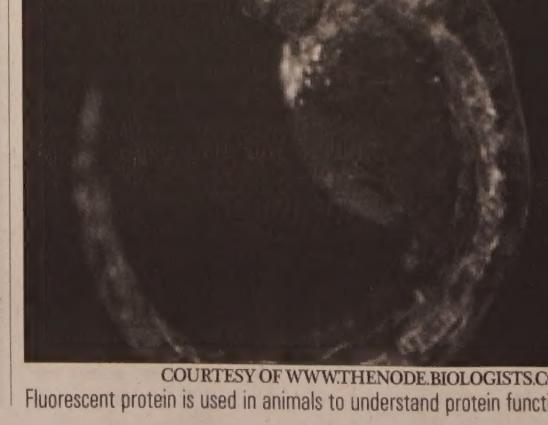
Phase changes can vary depending on the conditions of the medium that the electricity passes through, such as the temperature of the inner components of the battery. Specifically, the researchers found that a current alternating with a frequency of 40Hz gives the best signal that the researchers can use for their sensor.

The researchers have applications on file for international and US patents for their work, and have been exploring licensing opportunities for their work. According to Srinivasan, several manufacturers have also been in contact with the Applied Physics Laboratory's Office of Technology Transfer.

Mushrooms implicated in mysterious deaths

A research team led by Ji-Kai Liu recently discovered the culprit behind a series of unexplained deaths in China's Yunnan province: the little white mushroom *Trochus venenata*. Named after its discoverer, Zhu L. Yang, the fungus is responsible for the deaths of over 260 healthy people over the last 30 years. To support their hypothesis, scientists at the Kunming Institute of Botany and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention isolated and characterized three toxic compounds from the mushroom's fruiting bodies.

Using various spectroscopic techniques, the researchers identified gamma-guanidinobutyric acid, a known toxin, and two previously undiscovered amino acids. Struc-



COURTESY OF WWW.THENODE.BILOGISTS.COM
Fluorescent protein is used in animals to understand protein function.

SPORTS

Fencing cuts through Eric Sollee Invitational

By ASHLEY MILLETTE
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's and women's fencing teams headed up to Waltham, MA for their first competition of the spring semester last Saturday, Feb. 4th. The Eric Sollee Invitational, hosted by Brandeis University, featured a plethora of schools including Penn, currently ranked seventh nationally, Brown, MIT and Brandeis.

While the men's fencing team ended the day with a 1-4 record, all were close matches, with losses to Boston College, Brandeis and Brown by no more than three points. The highlight of the Invitational for the men's team was their 14-13 victory against MIT. While Hopkins only won one of the three weapons, their outscoring of MIT, 7-2, with the Sabre helped them to secure the overall win.

Junior Nicolas Barbera won all three of his bouts against the MIT Engineers with a total of four wins in the Invitational. Freshman Robert Goldhirsch also helped to secure the Jays' win against the engineers winning two out of three bouts. Goldhirsch also had seven wins overall in the Foil, improving his season record to 21-9.

The tournament comes on the heels of an impressive showing at the Stevens Invitational a week prior, where Hopkins bested Army, Stevens, NJIT, Yeshiva and Hunter. Without question the top performer for the Blue Jays was sophomore Evan Stafford, *The News-Letter's* Athlete of the Week, who finished 13-0 on the weekend.

Other key contributors included freshman Aravind Menon, who went 13-2, freshman Alex Szigeti, who went 11-1, junior Ben Wasser, sophomore Jay DeYoung and freshman Zach Goodman and Paul Vitale.

The JHU women's team took the Invitational by storm, losing by one point only to Brown University and winning all other matches to produce a 4-1 record.

Hopkins swept Brandeis and Tufts and also beat Boston College, claiming both the Sabre and the Epee and losing the Foil by just a single point. The Black and Blue also beat MIT with overall wins in the Foil and Epee bouts and a loss in the Sabre by another one-point margin.

Along with an overall winning record, several Lady Jays also reached personal goals. Sophomore Jackie Heath ended the day having won her 150th career bout while fellow sophomore Kathleen Rand achieved her 100th career victory.

The week prior at the Philadelphia Invitational, Hopkins downed the Fords of Haverford, the high-note in a weekend that also included losses to four Division I schools. Senior Lauren Chinn, Epee, and freshman Rachel Kalina, Sabre, paced the Lady Jays with nine wins apiece.

Stay tuned for more news on the JHU men's and women's fencing team next week as the men's team heads to Durham, N.C. on Feb. 11 for the Duke Invitational and the women's team heads to the Eastern Women's Fencing Championship on Feb. 12 in Madison, N.J. The women's team will be defending their two-time champion title against the tournament's host, Drew University.

Track running on all cylinders

TRACK, FROM B12

Lavell, who had a solid showing in both the long jump and triple jump, thought that the team had a great day as a whole but could certainly do bigger and better things in the future.

"We are just starting to get in the right swing of things. Once we start clicking a little more through more practice and meets, it is going to be scary to see how far we can go."

The men's team also flexed their muscle at the McElligot Invitational. Senior co-captain Luke Sand took control of the shot put events as he broke his own school record—both indoor and out—as he

threw the ball 15.11 meters (49'7").

Sophomore Jon Hickman also placed in the shot put with a third place finish. Freshman Paul Vozzo also placed in the meet with a

pole vault of 4.11 meters (13'5 3/4"). This allowed Vozzo to continue his lead in the conference.

Senior Jacob Kramer fin-

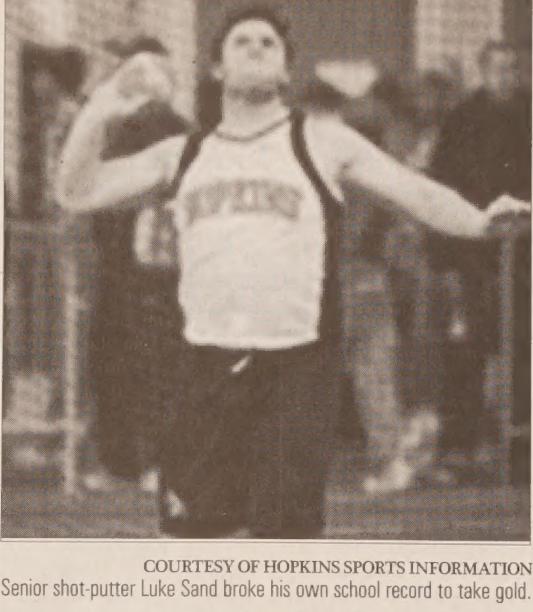
ished first in the 60-meter high hurdles (8.78 seconds), while freshman Ryan Walsh finished close behind in second. Walsh later went on to finish second in the high jump (1.87 meters).

Sophomore Max Robinson continued to have a strong season, as he earned silver medal hon-

ors in the 3,000-meter run (8:46.71). Freshman Michael Spadaro also impressed, as he finished second in the triple jump, fourth in the high jump and fourth in the pole vault.

To round out the weekend, both relay teams—the 4 X 400 meter and the distance medley—ran season bests. The 4 X 400 comprised of junior Robert Martin, sophomore Jared Beekman, Kramer and freshman Alex Naticchia. The distance medley comprised of sophomore Andrew Carey, Martin, junior Ben Press and sophomore Wes Butler.

Both the men and women's team will look to continue to progress and show opponents what Blue Jay nation is made of. The women return to action this weekend at the Navy Multi-Sweetheart Invitational on Feb. 9th, then will team up with the men at the Boston University Valentine Invitational on Feb. 10th and 11th.



COURTESY OF HOPKINS SPORTS INFORMATION
Senior shot-putter Luke Sand broke his own school record to take gold.

Jays beat Swat, upset by McDaniel

By JARED FRYDMAN
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's basketball team has quickly put together a wonderful season thus far, posting an 19-3 record overall and a 14-3 Centennial Conference record. Looking to take advantage of an opportunity to clinch a playoff berth in the conference playoffs, the Lady Jays traveled to

posting her sixth double-double of the year with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Mattioli added 16 points of her own, complemented by 10 points from sophomore guard Fatu Conte and eight points from junior forward Sarah Higbee.

As a team the defensive effort was astounding, Hopkins held Swarthmore to 16 first half points and only allowed five of 32 attempts from the field to reach the bottom of the net, a 15.6 percent shooting percentage. In the second half, Swarthmore ramped it up to 25 percent, but still only totaled 42 points on the game.

The second half opened similarly to the first, with a slow offensive performance from the veteran Hopkins team. Swarthmore was able to cut the lead to 12 points early in the half before the Lady

Jays stepped on the accelerator, piecing together a 17-6 run and extending their already large lead.

Once again Swarthmore attempted to crawl back into the game, but Hopkins



FILE PHOTO
Hopkins remains in first-place at 14-3 in the CC.

went on yet another powerful scoring run to put the game out of reach. The largest lead of the game came with just 44 seconds remaining, as Hopkins led by 31 points, 71-40, before the final buzzer sounded with a 71-42 Blue Jay advantage.

The Lady Jays shot 50 percent on the day, spreading the ball around and allowing ten players to compile positive numbers in the points category. Three players added double figure points and the team tallied 11 blocks on the game, six coming from leading scorer Alex Vassila.

Overall, the game was a summary of the season as a whole, a dominant performance that expressed just how powerful and successful this women's team can be.

On Wednesday night at McDaniel, however, Hopkins was upset by the Green Terror at the buzzer, 76-74. The loss was one of the bigger shocks of the Centennial season, as the game pitted the first-place Jays against eighth-place McDaniel.

The team is excited looking forward and has just three games remaining on the season before they attempt to increase the intensity level and make a run deep into the playoffs.



FILE PHOTO
The Blue Jays have their final regular season home games this weekend.

Wrestling pinned against 24th-ranked Messiah

By JEFF SCHILL
For The News-Letter

After back-to-back victories against Washington and Lee and Gettysburg, the Hopkins wrestling team fell short of nationally ranked Messiah last Friday night in Grantham, PA, 22-16. Coming off of the two previous victories, the Blue Jays looked to continue their momentum and take down the Falcons and make a statement.

Despite the loss, the Blue Jays hung with the Falcons until the last match and had the victory within reach. This performance against the nation's 24th best squad should give Hopkins the confidence needed to finish out the rest of the season strong.

On Friday, the Jays took an early lead, winning the first four out of five matches. This resulted in an early 13-6 advantage over the Falcons. Leading the initial charge were Hopkins co-captain and junior Paul Marcello, sophomore Henry Stauber and freshman Paul Bewak, with decisions at 141, 149 and 125, respectively.

Stauber's 10-2 major gave the Blue Jays and early 10-6 lead. However, despite their early dominance, Hopkins could not sustain the advantage. The Blue Jays fell behind after the midway point, but made another push, led by co-captain and junior Reid Mosquera in 197-pound weight class.

The captain stepped up with a hard fought win for the Jays to hold the deficit to 19-16. This put the Blue Jays in a good spot going into the final match. With everything riding on the final matches, the Falcons ultimately proved victorious. Messiah's Russell Jones secured the victory with a decisive win at 285.

Although the Blue Jays lost the match, the residual effects could prove far more important and beneficial for the squad. The Blue Jays proved that they could wrestle with anyone and perform to a high level.

Freshman standout Paul Bewak has been outstanding all season with an overall record of 20-7 and

a Centennial Conference record of 4-0, and his performance against a nationally ranked opponent only bolstered his confidence. Bewak has learned quickly what it takes to be a collegiate wrestler.

"The biggest adjustment for me was that in college there are no easy points," the Greensburg, PA native said. "You have to be ready to give 100 percent every time in every position to even have a chance at scoring."

Coming up against his biggest challenge so far at JHU, a nationally ranked opponent in Messiah, Bewak was forced to hone the mentality he has taken in the past matches and go beyond.

"It felt really good beating a nationally ranked team because it shows me that I'm ready and able to compete at the higher levels of my sport," he said.

The Blue Jays' light weights (125, 141, 149, 157) all stepped up during the match and provided the driving spark needed to hang with the 24th-ranked Falcons. This confidence has echoed throughout the team and with Centennial Conference Championships just two weeks away, the timing could not be better.

Marcello, a veteran on the young Jays who advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2010-2011, has high hopes for the team with the Centennial Conference Championships just a few weeks away.

"This is the year to win conferences, and this is the team to do it," Marcello said.

The Blue Jays have yet to win a Centennial Conference Championship, but the team has shown their resilience and toughness in their recent matches and is looking to make history.

To finish out the regular season, the Blue Jays will face the Merchant Marine Academy and Stevens Tech on Sunday, February 12th and will then face New York University the following week. If the Blue Jays can build off of their momentum gained from the battle with Messiah, then Hopkins should storm into Conferences ready to take the title.

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD			
Women's B-Ball	Men's B-Ball	Men's Lacrosse	Wrestling
February 4, 2012 Hopkins @ Swarthmore W, 71-42	February 4, 2012 Hopkins @ Swarthmore W, 73-56	February 4, 2012 Hopkins v. Penn State Scrimmage L, 6-8	February 3, 2012 Hopkins v. Messiah L, 16-22
February 8, 2012 Hopkins @ McDaniel L, 74-76	February 8, 2012 Hopkins @ McDaniel W, 52-48		
Men's Fencing	Women's Fencing	Women's Fencing	Men's Swimming
February 4, 2012 Hopkins @ MIT W, 14-13	February 4, 2012 Hopkins @ Brandeis W, 19-8	February 4, 2012 Hopkins @ Tufts W, 18-9	February 3, 2012 Hopkins @ Navy L, 124.5-135.5
February 4, 2012 Hopkins @ Brown L, 12-15	February 4, 2012 Hopkins @ Brown L, 13-14	February 4, 2012 Hopkins @ MIT W, 15-12	

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
EVAN STAFFORD

By SAM GLASSMAN
Staff Writer

Fencing is a lot like chess. Granted, there are some subtle differences — namely, the use of a three-and-a-half foot long sword.

Kidding aside, the two games are actually strikingly similar. They both involve a comparable brand of 'strategizing' — a surprisingly mental aspect given the historically brutish nature of swordfights. When one begins to understand the subtleties of fencing, it becomes clear that the only difference it has from chess may very well be the three-and-a-half foot long sword.

Fencing incorporates a series parries (blocks) and ripostes (counters) that require anticipation and improvisation, but most of all an intense focus on the bout (match) at hand. It's no surprise, then, that sophomore Evan Stafford of Montana, who is studying physics and math, is finding such success on the mat.

"It's referred to as physical chess," said Stafford, "in that you have to outwit your opponent."

The formality of his responses gave a hint of the kind of academic intensity one can only find in the Hopkins science department. This intensity has clearly paid off, manifest-

ing itself in the form of a 13-0 win at the Stevens Institute of Technology Invitational on Jan. 29.

Put simply, fencing tournaments work as follows: each school brings their squad to the meet, a squad being made up of three fencers, plus one alternate. There is a different squad for each weapon — a Sabre, a Foil and an Epee — and each member of the squad participates in three rounds of fencing with three bouts within each round. Essentially, as Stafford puts it, "everyone fences everyone."

Stafford's record of 13-0 at this tournament means that he fenced 13 people and won 13 times.

What makes this accomplishment more notable, though, is Stafford's, "unorthodox style" of joining the team, as Head coach Austin Young noted.

Many notable collegiate athletes have grown up on their sport with a pacifier in one hand and a lacrosse stick or baseball in the other. Some may have even swam before they could walk although one would hope not.

Stafford, however, began fencing "winter of my freshman year of high school," he said. He went on to explain that it was not for his high school team. "I did it only at the local fencing club, three nights

a week for a couple of hours," he explained.

To many athletes, three nights a week for a couple of hours is almost nothing. Many spend hours daily perfecting their game and still don't see similar success.

than with the Sabre or the Epee. "You have to work under the 'right of way' rules to get the points. [which] basically means you have to stay in control of your actions."

If you hit the wrong spot — an 'undesignated area' — the match is stopped and reset.

Foil fights differ from Epee fights, in that the Foil rules require that one must hit their opponent with the tip of the sword, and in a designated area. A button on the sword's end will complete an electrical circuit and set off a buzzer signaling a hit. This is the 'right of way.' Stafford was referring to — hitting an undesignated area signals a loss of control and a breach of the 'right of way' rules.

The Epee fights, though, do not require a hit in a designated area — the entire body is fair game. They simply require that the hit be made through contact with the blade's tip. Anything else won't count but neither will it stop the match. Thus, there is no 'right of way' in Epee fights.

Finally, the Sabre counts a point for any hit above the waist by any part of the blade. It also does not have 'right of way.'

Whereas one "only has to worry about hitting the opponent" with the Sabre and Epee, Stafford said, the foil involves "outwitting your opponent in a different way."

In addition to trying different weapons, Stafford has also played a few other sports. Stafford recalled that he played baseball "for a number of years," and hockey until "everyone else got a lot bigger." He never had serious aspirations for either sport.

It didn't seem to concern him very much, though. Between fencing, a rigorous course-load and coding on the side, there's not time for much else; except, maybe, the occasional game of chess.

Clearly, though, Stafford has had his share of experience; at least enough to have competed with all three weapons and attend several national tournaments, both of which he had done before enrolling at Hopkins.

But, of all the weapons he's tried, his current one, the Foil, remains his favorite.

"I enjoy the kind of problem solving it involves," Stafford said. This brand of problem solving, he explained, was different

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in the heart of opposing teams and adds the proverbial 'Sixth Man' to the Blue Jays squad.

"The support at home games is the best I've seen in my three year career at Hopkins so far," Spengler happily noted. "I truly believe they play a part in our success at home, making it hard on the opponents. They're crazy and I love it."

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Spengler summed it up best when he said, "We are in a situation where we are able to control our own destiny, and that's all you can ask for."

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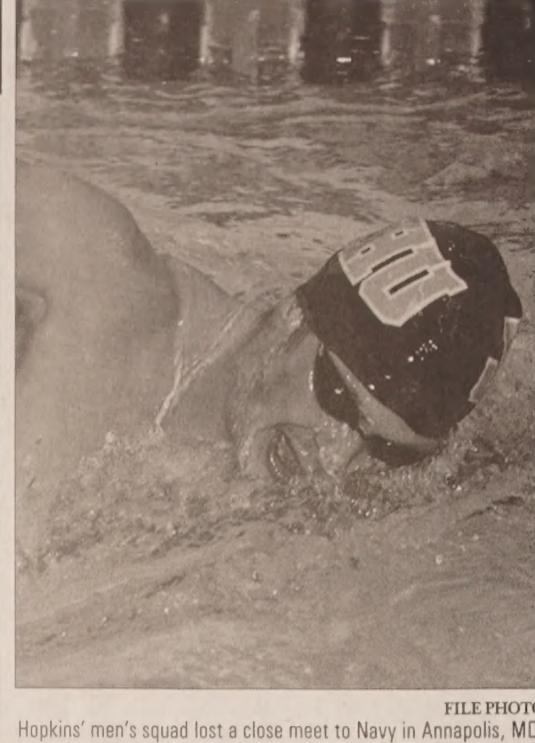
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FILE PHOTO
Hopkins' men's squad lost a close meet to Navy in Annapolis, MD.

Swimmers prepare for Bluegrass postseason play

By HANNAH ECKSTEIN
Staff Writer

Here they will face some of the best competition from the conference and hope to touch in some fast times to qualify for the National Championships in Indianapolis. With nine swimmers already qualifying for Nationals, Coach Kennedy expects anywhere from 4-10 swimmers to qualify, earning their spot on the long trip to Indianapolis.

On the women's side, the Lady Jays traveled to Washington and Lee on Saturday, Jan. 28th and captured their final dual meet of the season.

"We knew we were a better team on paper," Coach Kennedy said, "So this gave us the opportunity to mix up the events and give more girls the opportunity to race."

Even mixing up the lineup, the women still swam fast times, breaking two pool records and proving that talent runs deep within the Lady Jays. The 200-medley relay team of freshman Melinda Yau, sophomore Cristina Cusumano, freshman Kivilcim Gunay and freshman Jill Liwacz; and the 200-freestyle relay of Liwacz, junior Eleanor Gardner, sophomore Eva Schulteis and Yau, posted new records at the Generals' home pool.

The women then showed their strength in the distance events. Freshman Selena Guerrero-Martin, freshman Beril Polat and senior Kristine Ghemigian swept the 1000-meter freestyle going 1-2-3. Senior Heidi Culver won the 500 free with a time of 5:21.43.

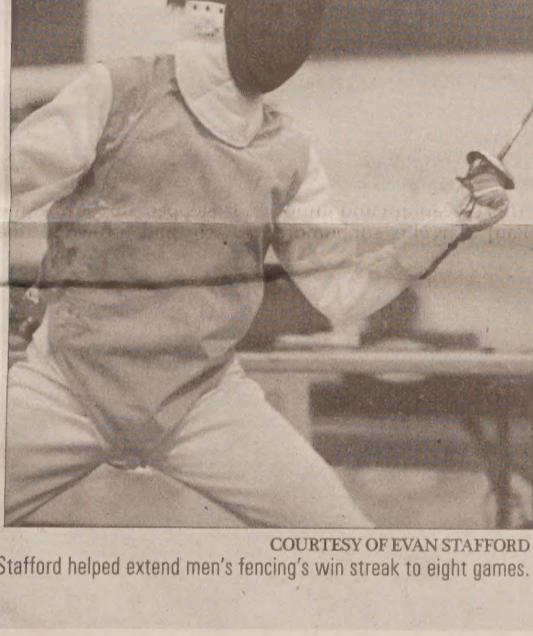
In addition, junior Kristen Ferriero had a great race in the 200-freestyle, cruising in to the wall with a time of 1:59.38 to oust the competition by half a second. Freshman Hannah Benn won the 200 back with a time of 2:10.60, and the Blue Jay's finished the meet with second and fourth place finishes in the 100 fly from Gunay and freshman Allison Henry.

The Blue Jays then showed their strength in freestyle, winning both the 50 and 100-meter races. Davis had an impressive race in the 200 back, posting a time of 2:06.97, followed by freshman Ryan Cunningham and sophomore David Woodford who placed second and third, respectively.

After a loss to Navy in the 200-yard breaststroke, Hopkins rallied to win the last four events of the day, including the 400-meter free, the 100 fly, the 200 I.M. and the 400 free relay. The 400 free relay team made up of junior Tyler Woods, sophomore Ben Tillar, junior Dylan Coggin and junior Nick Schmidt touched in with a time of 3:30:09.

With the dual meet season behind them, the men have begun to taper, drastically decreasing their time in the pool after a long season of hard work to prepare for the Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championships. This Conference-wide meet will take place on Feb. 15th, in Charlotte, N.C.

After Conferences, the women will make the long trek out to chilly Indianapolis for fierce competition and fast times at the National Championships.



COURTESY OF EVAN STAFFORD

Stafford helped extend men's fencing's win streak to eight games.

Blue Jays ride 22-0 run to topple opponent Garnet

M. BASKETBALL, FROM B12

"In the first half we really struggled offensively," Spengler said, "Thankfully I was able to get some spacing and knock down a few threes. I was confident when I got an open look I would be able to capitalize."

The Blue Jays expanded their lead in the second half only to see it shrink to a two point game midway through the second half. What happened next was the product of true teamwork as four Jays contributed to a 22-0 run to expand the lead to 60-36 and all but put the game out of reach.

"The run in the second half against [Swarthmore] was a lot due to the fact that we crashed the boards defensively," Spengler, the six-foot-one, 180-pound junior from Colts Neck, N.J. recounted. "This allowed us to put ourselves in great position on offense where we ran some of our sets the best I've seen all year."

Spengler finished the game with 12 points while freshman phenom George Bugarinovic led all Blue Jay scorers with 13 points, five rebounds and two steals. Sophomore center Aleksandar Nikolic also poured in double digits as he added 11 points on 5-of-7 shooting. The Blue Jays benefited from some sharp shooting as they fin-

ished the game shooting 48 percent from the field

while shooting at a remarkable 59.1 percent clip over the course of the second half.

The Blue Jay basketball team has benefited this season from buying into Head coach Bill Nelson's game plan and performing as a team every time out. The Jays, at 13-9 and 9-6 in the Centennial, Junior guard Adam Spengler is second on the Jays with 9.2 PPG. blocks.

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Eight different Blue Jays have started a game this season, while ten players have seen action in every contest of the 2011-2012 campaign, exemplifying a depth not seen on any team in the Centennial Conference.

Recent success this season by both the men's and women's basketball teams has seen an increase in school spirit and support at games in the Goldfarb Gymnasium. The Blue Jays recent home games have seen the stands packed with passionate supporters wearing colorful garb who cheer on their class-

mates with a fervor that concurrently strikes fear

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SPORTS.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hopkins men's lacrosse season kicks off on Friday, Feb. 17th at Homewood Field against cross-town rival Towson. The Blue Jays finished 13-3 a season ago.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

W. Basketball vs. Ursinus, 1 PM

M. Basketball vs. Ursinus, 3 PM

SUNDAY

Wrestling vs. Merchant Marine, 11 AM

Wrestling vs. Stevens Tech, 12:45 PM

TUESDAY

W. Basketball vs. F&M, 7 PM

WEDNESDAY

M. Basketball vs. F&M, 7 PM

Eckstein, Sand soar by records at McElligot Invite

By RYAN KAHN
Staff Writer

With the spring semester just beginning, the men's and women's track teams both jumped to a solid start in this past weekend's Seamus McElligot Invitation hosted by Haverford. Both teams dominated in their respective strengths: throwing for the men, distance and sprints for the women.

Adding onto an already stellar season, freshman phenomenon Hannah Eckstein had a day and a half. She began her day in record-breaking fashion on the 5,000-meter run where she posted a time of 10:05.78. This toppled a highly coveted school record set by multi-all American, Laura Paulsen in 2009.

It also blasted Paulsen's six-year old freshman indoor record by nearly 12 seconds. It is clear that Eckstein is getting better and progressing as the season goes on, and her opponents are well aware, as she is now ranked third in the nation in the 5,000-meter event.

"She is a freak!" Emily Lavell, a junior jumper/sprints specialist said of her teammate. "She is an absolute beast. I would like to think she got a lot of good insight from the up-
perclassmen on the team,"

SEE TRACK, PAGE B10

but with her work ethic and determination, it is not difficult to figure out where her success is coming from."

But the Lady Jays didn't end their dominance in distance as the team also took back some hardware in the sprinting, jumps and throwing departments. Senior co-captain Alison Smith finished in first in the 60, 200 and 400-meter dashes; freshman Kelley Hussey finished right behind Smith in the 60, coming in second.

On top of that, Smith's margins of victory in all three races were quite a show. She then went on to finish fifth in the long jump.

Sophomore Emily Kashka, freshman Kelsey Bowler and Junior Tracey Vill took the top three spots, respectively, in the pole vault to add another Blue Jay dominated event on the day. Junior Alana Merkow continued to hold onto the conference lead in throws and put up a winning toss of 12.29 (40'4").

Teammates sophomore Emily Swenson and senior Steph Amalfe also placed in the shot put, finishing third and fourth. Junior Alexa Tzaferos rounded out the day with three second-place finishes: 60-meter hurdles, long jump and triple jump.

SEE TRACK, PAGE B10

Men's Lacrosse warms up with Penn State



ANGIE PINILLA/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Lacrosse fans got a sneak preview of the preseason second-ranked Blue Jays this past Saturday when Hopkins took on Penn State. The Jays fell, 8-6, but look primed for a historic year. Please stay tuned for a Men's Lacrosse Preview on newsstands Thursday, Feb. 16th.

M. Basketball enters playoff picture with win streak

By JEFF LYNCH
Staff Writer

Hopkins men's basketball team is heating up the hardwood on the Homewood Campus at just the right time. They are poised to make a run into the postseason. After hitting a

mid-season swoon that saw them drop five consecutive conference games, the Jays rallied for three consecutive wins against Centennial Conference rivals.

The Jays' most recent road win came this past Saturday when the Blue Jays took a trip up north

to battle the Garnet of Swarthmore College. The first half was a back-and-forth battle, as each team sustained runs to take the lead in the early going.

It looked as if the Garnet would take the momentum into the locker room as they led by a score of 23-19 with

2:29 left in the opening half. However, in came junior guard Adam Spengler, who had been held scoreless the previous 17 minutes, to hit three consecutive three-point shots to help the Jays storm into the locker room on a 9-0 run.

SEE M. BASKETBALL, PAGE B11

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